BURIAL-GROUND INCENDIARISM.

THE

LAST FIRE AT THE BONE-HOUSE

IN

THE SPA-FIELDS GOLGOTHA,

OR, THE

MINUTE ANATOMY OF GRAVE-DIGGING

IN

LONDON.

BY GEO. ALFD. WALKER, SURGEON, AUTHOR OF "GATHERINGS FROM GRAVE-YARDS," "THE GRAVE-YARDS OF LONDON," "INTERMENT AND DISINTERMENT," &c. &c.

OPINIONS OF THE LONDON AND PROVINCIAL PRESS.

G. A. Walker, Esq., of London, has published (through Longman and Co.) another pamphlet, entitled, "Burial Ground Incendiarism: The Last Fire at the Bone-House in the Spa-Fields Golgotha, or the Minute Anatomy of Grave-digging in London." In this work the industrious and enthusiastic author still further exposes the pestilential practices of city grave-yards, "many of which places are, *in fact*, what his little history demonstrates them to be—most scandalous, most disgraceful receptacles for the *dead*—centres whence radiate, in every direction, gaseous, invisible compounds, to poison the *living*." We have repeatedly called attention to this subject, and more than once in connection with the crowded church-yard in our own parish. A correspondent, too, who has often taken it up in our columns, has made it the subject of a letter received last week, and inserted in our present number—to which we direct the attention of our readers.—*Gateshead Observer*, April 25, 1846.

Mr. Walker has recently published another of his plain blunt statements of facts bearing on the subject; such a statement as fastens on to the neck of an evil, and, sooner or later, inevitably pulls it down. It relates to the abominable proceedings in the Spa-Fields burying-ground, in the exposure of which our readers will remember we took active part. Mr. Walker's motive for interference in the matter, as stated in the preface, gives a reason why all should exert themselves to abate a practice which is injurious in the highest degree. He says such grounds are centres whence poisons radiate in every direction. . . . Some of the details contained in the pamphlet are horrifying, and must have a powerful effect.—*Builder*, April 18, 1846.

The excitement occasioned by the exposure of the abominations carried on in the Spa-Fields burial-ground, some time since, and the philanthropic exertions of Mr. Mackinnon to put a stop to interments in populous towns, have had the effect of directing public attention to the nuisance; but the work of Mr. Walker displays such revolting circumstances, and so forcibly denounces the pestilential practice, that Government must interfere,—abate the nuisance—and pay due honour to the indefatigable, but disagreeable labours which Mr. Walker has nobly undertaken *pro bono publico*.—*Alliance*, April 18, 1846.

Perhaps there are few subjects on which there is less room for disputation than the question of the interment of the dead within the precincts of large towns, and in densely inhabited localities. It is difficult to suppose that two enlightened individuals could be found, who hold a difference of opinion on so self-evident a proposition, as that a burial-ground, crowded with the accumulating decay of years of mortality, if situated in a confined and thickly populated neighbourhood, must prove a serious source of contamination to the atmosphere of the place. It is absolutely impossible but that the emanations which take place from a soil, in great part formed of the dust of mortality, in every state of decay, must prove more or less injurious to all who live within the sphere of their influence. No fact is better ascertained in relation to the progress of epidemic or infectious diseases, than that to isolate the affected persons, to surround them with a sufficiency of space so as to admit of free ventilation; in other words, to dilute the poison, whatever that may be, is the most effective method to arrest its course, and avert its consequences. The converse of this ascertained fact is a natural sequence—that to crowd human beings together, and further to contaminate the atmosphere in which they are crowded, with such gaseous exhalations as the grave-yards of the Metropolis, and of large towns generally, are continually pouring forth, must be a ready means of generating disease and facilitating its progress. The fact, moreover, admits of direct proof, and, mainly through the exertions of Mr. G. A. Walker, the intelligent author of "Gatherings from Grave-Yards," and other works of the same nature, has abundantly received it. A Committee of the House of Commons, specially appointed to inquire into the subject, expressly state in a report to the House, that "*after a long and patient investigation, they cannot arrive at any other conclusion than that the nuisance of interments in large towns, and the injury arising to the health of the community from the practice, are fully proved.*"

The indecencies attendant upon such practice, the violation and exposure of the half-decayed remains, the breaking-up of coffins, the scattering of their contents, the burnings which from time to time are had recourse to in some of these receptacles, for the purpose of making room for fresh interments, all of which abominations pass under the eyes of the surrounding population, are fraught with a moral contagion little less injurious to the minds of the recipients than the pestilential effluvia are to their bodies; and yet, in the face of all this, in despite of the opinions of the most competent authorities, in the very teeth of evidence, sifted by the searching examination of a Parliamentary Committee, and of facts declared by them "fully proved," individuals are to be found so deadened to moral feeling, or so miserably biased by interested motives, as to band together for the maintenance, not merely of a particular nuisance of this description, but of the system itself. It is, however, a matter of substantial reality, that with the view of rendering nugatory the valuable and truly philanthrophic exertions of Mr. Walker, and of getting up an opposition to any legislative measure which might be based on the labours of the special Parliamentary Committee, an "*Anti*-Abolition of Intra-Mural Society" has been established. . . . . That this indefatigable opponent of grave-yard abuses should meet with vituperation and contumely, is not a matter of surprise. Happily, his energy is not likely to be foiled by such weapons, and we hope to be able to announce before long that his unwearied exertions will be rewarded in the speedy and complete removal of the abominations against which he has so long contended.—*Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*, April 29, 1846.

Mr. Walker deserves infinite credit for searching into the causes of, and bringing before the public the revolting grievances that occurred some time since in the Spa-Fields church-yard. We are much afraid, from its nature, this praiseworthy and most excellent pamphlet cannot hope for that circulation that should reward the author for his trouble. The book will be found useful alike to the medical practitioner or the unprofessional, and should occupy a place as well on the shelves of the several Boards of Health as on the table of the House of Commons.—*Court Journal*, April 18, 1846.

All grave-diggers have an instinctive aversion to Mr. G. A. Walker—they defame him in all ways—and represent him as the most officious, prying, meddling, and annoying of all possible customers. This arises from the fact of his having exposed their iniquitous doings, and brought into the broad glare of light one of the most revolting and atrocious iniquities ever perpetrated in a Christian country. We hear London spoken of, both by natives and foreigners, as the most elegant, polished, and refined city in the world, a model of civilization, and the emporium of all that is useful and splendid—the very acme of refinement and patrician grandeur. This may be—we have too much of the pride of country in our blood to dispute the universally acknowledged fact—but when we see this beautiful abode of princes and merchants incrusted with a hideous and loathsome excrescence, detrimental to its healthfulness and inimical to its purity, occasioned solely by the cupidity and avarice of clergymen, lay proprietors, and sextons, we readily join with Mr. Walker in our horror and detestation of the atrocities perpetrated on the bodies of the dead in the several Metropolitan church-yards. It is sacriligious and infamous—an atrocity from which even barbarians are exempt—a foul and infamous disgrace to the age in which we live.

With a steadiness of purpose which was neither to be turned aside by clamour nor insult, Mr. Walker pursued his object of instituting the most rigid personal inquiry into the nefarious system of interment in towns, for the purpose of laying the statements before the public; and the result of his latest labours is published in the pamphlet bearing the title of "BURIAL-GROUND INCENDIARISM."

We sincerely hope that Mr. Walker will continue to remind Ministers, and write pamphlets, until his great object is attained, and this terrible Golgotha nuisance is put down by the strong arm of the law. He writes with strength and aptitude, and has undertaken a task for which he ought in justice to receive the thanks, not only of the Londoners, but of the entire kingdom, for *all* are interested in mitigating the frightful evils which he is at so much pains to develop and annul. It should be borne in mind that Mr. Walker has previously issued pamphlets under different titles on the same subject.—*Plymouth Journal*, April 23, 1846.

Mr. G. A. Walker, surgeon, of London, has done incalculable service to the cause of decency, morals, and health, by his many searching investigations into, and continued exposures of, the horrible system and sickening effects of burial in crowded towns and church-yards. The present is another pamphlet from his pen, in which he accumulates overwhelming evidence of that great social nuisance, which must ere long be abolished before the might of public opinion. Mr. Walker has been a most unremitting and uncompromising assailant of the system of burial in towns; and with the array of frightful facts that he has at various times brought forward, his hostility to the practice is likely to find supporters in those who read his books. The statements made in this pamphlet are revolting beyond measure. . . . We doubt whether in any other part of the world a system of disposing of the dead prevails, so utterly dreadful and disgusting. And all this has been taking place in the midst of some of the most densely peopled parts of the Metropolis. It occurs in burial-grounds which are private property. Church-yard burial, in towns, is often attended with horrible circumstances, and a probe is sometimes used in our own town, to ascertain the state of bodies in the ground, before opening graves for fresh occupants. Under the best of circumstances there is a never-ceasing malaria arising from the surface of every city burial-ground; and where such places are closely built round, low fevers, eruptive diseases, and various anomalous ailments are sure to be prevalent. The country is much indebted to Mr. Walker for his untiring efforts to direct attention to a subject in which PUBLIC HEALTH and PUBLIC MORALS are so deeply involved; and until burial in towns is prohibited by legislative interference, individuals will do well, whether by practice or by the exertion of whatever influence they possess, to discountenance a system from which so much evil may be demonstrated to arise.—*Great Western Advertiser*, May 2, 1846.

Mr. George Alfred Walker, the indefatigable advocate of suburban burial, and uncompromising opponent of interment within the walls of cities and towns, has just published a work bearing the above title. It has been even evoked by that abominable violation of all decency which occurred last year in respect to the Spa-Fields burying-ground. This place of interment lies to the southern side of Exmouth Street, Clerkenwell, and has been rendered notorious—nay, infamous—by the burning of the exhumed dead, in order to make room for fresh burials. Well did Dr. Adam Clarke exclaim, in his commentary on Luke, "No burying places should be tolerated within cities or towns, much less in or about churches and chapels. This custom is excessively injurious to the inhabitants, and especially to those who frequent public worship in such chapels and churches. God, decency, and health forbid this shocking abomination." It requires no proof to corroborate the assertion, that the Metropolitan grave-yards are the causes of innumerable maladies. It is bad enough that the air should be impregnated with the horrible effluvium arising from those crowded places of sepulture, without the extra abomination of burning the bones of disinterred corpses. Yet, such is the practice in many of the London grave-yards, especially in those connected with Globe Lane (Globe Town) and its immediate vicinity; such, too, was the practice in the Spa-Fields cemetery, until the affair was brought before the public by the complaints of the inhabitants in the neighbourhood, and by the exposures contained in the *Dispatch* and other newspapers. The pernicious effects arising from interment within London, are incalculable. In Drury Lane there is a burying-ground rising many feet above the level of the street, so crowded is it with corpses; and in the hot weather a long dark fly, of a peculiar nature, is found in the houses looking upon it. Immediately behind Pamphilon's coffee-house, in Brydges Street, Covent Garden, there is a small burial-yard, so heaped up that it rises to the window-sills of a printing-office next door to that establishment. Many of the compositors in that office have been compelled to leave in consequence of the insufferable odour arising from the place, and have experienced the most unpleasant effects from that poisoned atmosphere. "Every man should know," says Dr. Clarke, "that the gas which is disengaged from putrid flesh, and particularly from a human body, is not only unfriendly to, but destructive of, animal life. Superstition first introduced a practice which self-interest and covetousness continue to maintain." And to what extent did that covetousness reach in respect to the Spa-Fields burial-ground? The greedy proprietors of that grave-yard actually had the rotting remains of mortality dug up and burnt in the bone-house, in order to make room for fresh arrivals at the "long home." Individuals "who are unaffected with the spirit of Mammon worship," says Mr. Walker, in the work now before us, "will most probably, in their simplicity, exclaim—how is it possible that such unheard-of abominations can have existed so long, and have reached to so fearful a height?" He says elsewhere that "he is prepared to prove that the most disgraceful acts are perpetrated in burying-places in densely-populated districts—neighbourhoods, indeed, in which the filthy, ill-ventilated condition of the streets and houses is such, that any additional causes of the corruption of the atmosphere should unquestionably not be permitted to exist." He moreover hesitates not to declare "that the practices necessarily pursued in many such receptacles are of so infamous and dangerous a character, as to demand their instant closure, and to call for the criminal punishment of the proprietors and their shameless agents." In the year 1842 a Select Committee of the House of Commons, appointed for the purpose of examining the momentous question of burials in populous places, came to the following conclusion:—"That the nuisance of interments in large towns, and the injury arising to the health of the community from the practice, are fully proved." Why, then, does not the Legislature interfere in this respect? Burials still take place in the Spa-Fields ground, and in others of the Metropolitan cemeteries, where there is not legitimate room to inter another coffin. . . In the

month of March, 1845, a correspondent addressed the following letter to the newspapers:—"Little more than 40 years ago I inhabited a house in Braynes's Row (now Exmouth Street), the back windows of which looked direct into the above burying-ground. An immense-sized black dog used to repeat his nightly howl as the guardian of these dismal regions—that howl which at times will thrill through my ear as long as recollection lasts. The day-scene was not less terrific, and more disgusting. Hogs were then kept by the parties who farmed this homestead of death. I have frequently seen recently-interred coffins torn up from their anchorage and thrown by for fire-wood, whilst the limbs of a decaying corpse have been dragged about as a savoury morsel by an old sow!" And these horrors have been perpetuated in similitude, if not in fact, until the present day, or rather until the middle of last year, when the authorities and the press put down the barbarous atrocities of the Spa-Fields bone-house. Mr. Walker is deserving of great praise for the spirited manner in which he has exposed the unprincipled and inhuman conduct of the proprietors of many of the London grave-yards. —*Weekly Dispatch*, April 12, 1846.

"We'll talk of graves, and epitaphs, and worms," says Blair, and though the topic be anything but inviting, the demands of duty to society should not yield to a too complacent selfishness. Mr. Walker has abundantly shown that disease, in pernicious and frightfully varied forms, pervades those localities wherein the practice of inordinate sepulture prevails, and appropriately cites the authority of Dr. Adam Clarke in support of the strong, and we must say, just animadversions, which the writer bestows on the subject. . .

Mr. Walker has devoted great labour, with sound judgment, to the investigation of his topic, and incontestibly shows how much is to be deplored in the prevailing practice; and consequently, with what earnestness all considerate persons should concur in the most practical means of suppressing an evil, which, with such zeal and ability, is denounced in Mr. Walker's publication.—*Taunton Courier*, April 22, 1846.

"Burial Ground Incendiarism."—As might readily be expected, the author of the above-named work has come in for a large share of abuse. He has touched the POCKETS of individuals who for years have enjoyed a thriving trade, though at the expense, as he very clearly proves, of public decency and health; and when the pockets of Englishmen are invaded, they are very apt to wax wrath, and use hard words. For our own parts we regard this gentleman in no other light than that of a public benefactor, who, at the risk of slander and vituperation, has fearlessly exposed one of the most crying evils of the age, by demonstrating the extent to which the health of neighbourhoods is injured, and the recklessness with which the tenderer feelings are outraged for the sake of allowing certain parties to derive a profit from the most unwise and unjustifiable practice of depositing the bodies of the dead in regions where they become the curse of the living. We are quite sure that the subject under notice only needs fairly examining to obtain for it the amount of public sympathy which it claims. It is so obviously injurious to the living, to inhale the noxious and poisonous gases with which the atmosphere must be charged that surrounds some confined and overloaded church or chapel burial-ground; that every one must allow the desirableness of interment in towns being put a stop to by the command of public opinion. No considerations can fairly be allowed to weigh against the important consideration of public health: private interests, feelings, wishes, and prejudices must all yield, when opposed to the general good; and for these reasons it is only necessary to show that interment in towns is opposed to the health of their inhabitants, to prove both the utility and justice of abolishing the practice. . . . All persons who are as yet unacquainted with this important question, will do well to peruse the pamphlet named at the head of this notice, for it abounds with striking facts and satisfactory arguments, which must convince all, who are not unduly prejudiced, of the justice of the position assumed by the author. We have no time to add more at present, but shall take an early opportunity of returning to the subject.—*Nottingham Review*, May 1, 1846.

This pamphlet contains a succinct history of what has hitherto been done towards overcoming one of the most enormous evils of our present social system, —that of intra-mural sepulture. The effects of this pernicious practice are, of course, more extensively felt in London than elsewhere. From its myriad population Death is continually taking his multitudinous victims; and these are, for the most part, as constantly consigned to receptacles of mortality already occupied to repletion with bodies not yet resolved into their parent element. This is done in densely-peopled districts of the Metropolis of England, and in the nineteenth century of the Christian era. Yes! in the largest and perhaps most intelligent city in the world a practice is perpetuated, by which the most palpable wrong is committed, and the grossest indignities are offered to our common humanity—a practice, by which the dead are outraged, and the living are subjected to noxious influences which deteriorate health, and insensibly, but inevitably, shorten the term of human existence. To Mr. Walker are the public primarily indebted for directing attention to this monster evil. To expose its horrors and its iniquities he has devoted a large amount of time, and talent, and expense; and this from motives the most pure and disinterested. It is impossible but that his exertions in this good cause should eventually be successful. Happily, he is just the man to grapple with difficulties, and to persevere in the pursuit of a laudable object. Luther had to contend long and earnestly with religious error; but, in his hands, truth was mighty, and at length prevailed. In the present case, the lessons of science and the evidence of facts are opposed by ignorance, by prejudice, and by self-interest; but their combined opposition must at last give way before the overwhelming force of enlightened public opinion. The subject of Mr. Walker's pamphlet is one of national concernment, inasmuch as the practice which it exposes and denounces obtains, more or less, in most of our cities and large towns; and, therefore, published as it is at a low price, we earnestly commend it to general perusal, as the means of inducing general co-operation in the promotion of a social reform which all are deeply interested to see speedily effected.—*Bath and Cheltenham Gazette*, April 29, 1846.

Some time since we gave a sketch of the Spa-Fields burial-ground, to afford our provincial readers an idea of the forbidding places in which the inhabitants of the modern Babylon inter their dead. In the same paper we referred to the praiseworthy exertions of Mr. G. A. Walker, who has now for many years been devoting his time and energies to the task of abolishing the custom of burial in large cities. This gentleman having just issued another pamphlet upon the subject, we make the following extracts from its pages. [As the extracts referred to are given in the pamplet, it is unnecessary to quote them here.]—*Pictorial Times*, May 2, 1846.

The author of this work is well known to the public by his "Gatherings from Grave-Yards," "The Grave-Yards of London," &c., and by his indefatigable endeavours to put an end to the atrocities perpetrated in crowded burying-places, such as Spa-Fields and other places in London. The present publication details the horrors that have been enacted at those places, in disturbing the bodies of the dead to make room for fresh interments, as many as two thousand burials yearly having been made in the Spa-Fields ground, containing only one acre, and most diabolical means resorted to for the disposal of the mass of mortality with which it was encumbered, burning being the usual mode, as indicated by the title of the pamphlet. If the facts had not been well authenticated before a Committee of the House of Commons, and by the testimony of highly respectable individuals, we could scarcely have believed that the love of gain would lead men to a systematic violation of all the decencies both of life and death such as is here depicted.—*The Wisbech Advertiser*, May 2, 1846.

Mr. G. A. Walker, the surgeon, who has most patriotically investigated the subject of grave-yard enormities, has produced a new work, entitled "Burial-Ground Incendiarism," a perusal of which is most highly deserving of attention, and interests all classes who desire to preserve the sacred repose of the dead.—*Railway Herald*, April 25, 1846.

BURIAL GROUND INCENDIARISM.—Mr. George Alfred Walker, surgeon, of London, who has directed his attention most perseveringly for many years to the grave-yards of the Metropolis, has collected and published a mass of astounding facts connected with the Spa-Fields burial-ground. We have before noticed the method in which interment is conducted in this London "Golgotha," and it is needless, therefore, for us further to refer to it than to remark that Mr. Walker has proved a most complete case against it; but there are a few general principles and observations in the pamphlet which Mr. Walker has just published, which are of some interest and importance to our readers, though dwelling far away from "The Grave-Yards of London."—*Sherborne Journal*, April 23, 1846.

With a rather long title, this opportune and truth-telling pamphlet comes under our consideration, damp from the press. During its perusal, we have been horrified to think that such brutal and revolting deeds should have been perpetrated, in defiance of humanity, at the Spa-Fields Golgotha, Enon Chapel, Clement's Lane, and other places, dedicated to the sanguinary disturbers of the peaceful dead. Mr. Walker produces, in a straightforward series, such astounding evidence, as must convince the blindest and most sceptical of the necessity of discontinuing sepulture in the Metropolis, and of shutting up those crowded places of skulls, so as effectually to prevent future mischief, which must and will ensue, if the customary practices are persisted in. In every page (and there are forty-eight pages, including the appendix), much valuable information is conveyed; and the public will feel grateful to the author, particularly as a surgeon, for having brought the *subject* forward prominently, at a time when all classes are personally interested in it.—*Lloyd's Weekly London Newspaper*, May 3, 1846.

"THE LAST FIRE AT THE BONE-HOUSE IN THE SPA-FIELDS GOLGOTHA."—Such is the title of a pamphlet, sent us by the author, G. A. Walker, Esq., surgeon, who, in a series of statements, published from time to time in various newspapers, and in communications, petitions, &c., to public authorities and the government, has unveiled the revolting features and anatomy of the London grave-yards; and particularly, with fearful minuteness, pointed out the enormities connected with the treatment of the dead in the "The Spa-Fields Golgotha," London. . . . . .

From this paragraph it will be seen by what means the first process of "clearing the ground" was effected; and the writer forcibly points out, that by the means of quick lime, hot ashes, &c., thrown on the bodies from which coffins were thus taken, the remains of hundreds of human bodies had been speedily decomposed, and mingled with the soil, from which, at almost every fresh burial, human bones were upturned by scores, while the effluvia arising from the fresh-opened ground, was sufficient to cause almost immediate suffocation in some instances, and in others, long protracted sickness. This startling pamphlet also contains a full exposure of the system pursued at "Enon Baptist Chapel, Clement's Lane, Strand," the details of which are horrifying. Hear what he says. . . . Many details even more revolting than these might be quoted, but we shrink from further recital of such loathsome, but too common, particulars. But we wish to call the attention of the public to this question, with a view to the abandonment of the practice of burial in towns.—*The Monmouthshire Merlin*, May 1, 1846.

"BURIAL-GROUND INCENDIARISM."—To Mr. Walker the country owes a debt of gratitude for his unremitting and philanthropic exertions in bringing the evils resulting from the existing system of interments before the notice of the public; he has devoted during many years much time and expense, with a total disregard of his own personal comfort, nay, even of his health, to the subject, and to him are mainly to be attributed the searching investigations which have been made, whereby a mass of evidence was collected, and which ultimately led to an inquiry before a Committee of the House of Commons.—*The Life Assurance Chronicle*, June, 1846.

"BURIAL-GROUND INCENDIARISM."—Such is the strange title of the last pamphlet published by Mr. Walker, the indefatigable exposer of the burial desecrations, to which we beg our readers to give a perusal. Fearful have been the details in Mr. Walker's former works, but this little book contains disclosures which are sufficient to create the most unmitigated disgust.

Except for the exertions of Mr. Walker, the public would have remained in ignorance of the bulk of the atrocities that have been committed; but urged on by a sense of duty, and a perfect conviction of the justice of his cause, he has performed a crusade against one of the most powerful but revolting monstrosities that ever cursed a civilized country. For this devotion he has been cruelly assailed by interested parties, even by persons holding high positions. The attempts to crush him, and prevent inquiry into the unholy practices were sufficient to overwhelm an ordinary person, but they have had a contrary effect upon him—they have stimulated him to further exertion, and he is determined not to rest until he rids his country of the crying evil. . . . .

The documents compiled by Mr. Walker, and the Report of the Interment in Towns Commission, are unparalleled in their horrible disclosures; they throw into the background all the fictions that have ever been laid before the public. Mr. Walker at length roused the public mind, and a Bill to prevent interment in towns was prepared. This was the signal for a persecution the most cruel, and a blackening of the fair fame of the man who had the moral courage to expose the atrocities, that could have been devised. First of all a total denial to his assertions was given, and actions at law, and criminal prosecutions, were threatened; but Mr. Walker fearlessly called out the parties to disprove what he said; they failed, and at length they were treated with what they themselves had threatened, an indictment. Mr. Walker exposed two notorious places of burial in the following manner. . . . .

A Parliamentary Committee was appointed, and a mass of evidence was taken which more than corroborated the first assertions, and the Committee reported that, "*after a long and patient investigation, your Committee cannot arrive at any other conclusion than that the nuisance of interments in large towns, and the injury arising to the health of the community from the practice are fully proved.*"

A bill to prevent a repetition of such practices was prepared. Immediately upon this, the parties who were reaping the gains at the expense of the public health and decency, got up a powerful opposition to the Bill, in which they were aided by men professedly the leaders of religious bodies, who most unworthily perverted the inquiry, and the intentions of the promoters of the Bill; they fanned a flame, and endeavoured to get up a party opposition. A Committee was appointed to organise the opposition, and a series of violent and inflammatory letters and articles were published for the purpose of assailing the characters of Mr. Walker and the Committee, and of *defending the burial-ground system, which had been so truthfully exposed!*

In our opinion Mr. Walker deserves the thanks and blessings of the whole community, rather than execrations and contempt, for his fearless exposure of the enormities practised in church-yards, chapel-yards, and burying-grounds; and however vindictive the opposition may now be to this devoted man, we venture to predict that, sooner or later, he will meet with a due reward for his humane exertions.—*Bedford Times*, April 25, 1846.

A large debt of public gratitude is due to Mr. Walker for the courage and perseverance with which he has exposed the horrible facts connected with the barbarous and destructive practice of burying in towns. In this pamphlet Mr. Walker has collected a further mass of evidence to show how decency is violated and health endangered for the sake of the petty interests of a few persons who speculate in burying-grounds, and whose vile self-interests were shamefully suffered to defeat the Bill introduced by Mr. Mackinnon, for the purpose of forbidding the practice, although the destruction of thousands of lives annually in this Metropolis is the price paid for the preservation of these detestable gains. Let us hope that the time is not far distant when the public mind will awaken to a sense of the enormous amount of disease and

death to which it submits as patiently as if it were an inevitable evil, although the consequence of practices which it might forbid by a word, and that the interests of a few dealers in dead bodies will not much longer be suffered to thwart the endeavours of the enlightened and benevolent to make the first great step towards the improvement of the health of towns, by the prohibition of burial of the dead, where decaying mortality can only poison the air and scatter disease and death among the living. To this end the circulation of Mr. Walker's pamphlet will largely conduce.—*Critic*, April 18, 1846.

THE DEAD POISONING THE LIVING.—The duty of the journalist, ever arduous, is sometimes inviduous and unpleasant. We last week alluded to a subject that had again been brought under our notice, in a recent work by Mr. Walker, the surgeon, well known by his writings on grave-yards. We have looked carefully into this publication, which has forced sad conviction upon our minds, a conviction that would, were we in authority, force us to instant and energetic action. In the abundant facts before us, we have a wide choice of materials of a character to induce serious and solemn reflection. We commend this last work of Mr. Walker's to the solemn attention of our readers.

Our entire system of intra-mural burial is utterly disgraceful to us as a nation. The savage and the civilised have ever respected the ashes of the dead, but England in the nineteenth century forms the disgraceful exception. Such of our readers as have only made themselves partially acquainted with the principles and practices of grave-yard management will scarcely credit the statements recently published, but we regret to state that they are supported by the most conclusive evidence. Let us hear what Mr. Walker says of the Spa-Fields burial-ground . . . . Mr. Walker then affirms that, within a period of fifty years, about 80,000 bodies have been deposted in Spa-Fields, and on this fact makes the following comments . . . .

We must now turn to that hideous death-pit, the notorious Enon Chapel, situated in the very centre of the Metropolis. This place is closely surrounded by the habitations of the living, being about mid-way on the western side of Clement's Lane, Strand. It is a cellar, and nothing more—a frightful charnel, full of dead men's bones. The subjoined statements from Mr. Walker's book are truly appalling. . . . From a careful perusal of Mr. Walker's writings, and of the evidence taken before a Committee of the House of Commons, a very clear and strong case is made out for legislative interference. We are well aware that a large revenue is derived from grave-yards, but the unhallowed character of the speculation deprives it even of the gloss of a vested interest. However, the trustees of chapels or the clergy may suffer in a pecuniary point of view, they cannot be permitted to draw a revenue from poisoning the living, or desecrating the ashes of the dead.—*Sentinel*, April 19, 1846.

As the question of intra-mural interment is now again about to occupy the attention of Parliament, we would once more urge the importance of attention to the subject. The wretched abominations disclosed in the publications of Mr. G. A. Walker, though pourtrayed in strong language, there is every reason to believe are not exaggerated. . . . . .

The crypts and grave-yards of the large provincial towns of this country partake of the same evils arising from over-crowding, though perhaps not to an equal extent with some of the London receptacles. These have been well exposed by Mr. Crosse in reference to Norwich, and have been shown also to exist in other towns. In a case which has recently come to our knowledge, the church-yards of some of the most populous parishes in a large provincial town are so crowded that the grounds have been temporarily closed by order of the bishop of the diocese, and are not allowed to be opened without his express permission. In two of the parishes alluded to, the clergyman is unable to inhabit the rectory-house from its proximity to the burial-ground; and in a third, the family of the rector are greatly annoyed, especially in warm weather, by the offensive effluvia from the crypts beneath the church, to which the house immediately adjoins.

The Bill which is about to be introduced into Parliament for the remedy of this growing evil, and the providing of decent and fitting receptacles in which the decaying remains of mortality may be suffered to rest undisturbed at a sufficient distance from the abodes of the living, will, we trust, receive general support. Whatever partial objections may be entertained by some parties to certain of the details, there surely can be none to the general principle; and the heartless traffic of a few interested persons in the dead bodies of their fellow-creatures, regardless alike of the feelings, the morals, the comforts, the health, and even the lives of those whom necessity compels to witness their unhallowed proceedings, and to dwell in the midst of them, ought least of all to be allowed to interfere with the carrying into effect of a measure of undoubted benefit to the community at large.—*Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*, May 20, 1846.

"BURIAL-GROUND INCENDIARISM."—We have received a pamphlet under the above title, written by G. A. Walker, Esq., London, being, in the forcible language of the author, a description of "The Last Fire at the Bone-House in the Spa-Fields Golgotha, or, the Minute Anatomy of Grave-digging in London." The above description sufficiently indicates the nature of the contents of this little pamphlet, being nothing less than a brief recapitulation of the history of the agitation so boldly and unflinchingly kept up by the author; a republication of the examinations which took place when the practices pursued at the Spa-Fields Burial-Ground were exposed through the press; extracts from the evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons; and a refutation of the statements and the attacks made upon the author by an anonymous writer in the *Patriot* newspaper, which have since been collected and published, we are ashamed to say, under the *sanction* of a Committee for opposing the Bill for the Improvement of Health in Towns. How any set of men could so outrage common sense and decency, as thus publicly to organise themselves into a Committee to oppose a Bill, purporting to be for the Improvement of Health in Towns, we cannot conceive; the very fact provokes inquiry, and implies abuses and malpractices, which we leave to the skilful anatomical skill of Mr. Walker to expose. The public owe a deep debt of gratitude to that gentleman for his indefatigable exertions in so good a cause, which we are sure will eventually be appreciated. The evidence Mr. Walker lays before us in this pamphlet is, of necessity, confined to malpractices in the Metropolis, and not to our readers, perhaps, of much interest; but we are still deeply interested in the question, as there are few towns so deplorably off for places of interment, consistent with the public health, as our own. The question has been frequently agitated here, but, as yet, with little or no effect. We therefore take one or two extracts from Mr. Walker's publication, and offer them to the attention of our townsmen.—*The Bridgewater Times*, May 7, 1846.

It is very evident that this Spa-Fields burial-ground is a purely trading speculation, the profits being derived from the burial fees. Were the dead permitted to repose peacefully in their graves, this cemetery would long since have been completely filled up, and it would have ceased to yield any rent to the lessees. They, therefore, remove the bodies shortly after burial, burn them and their coffins, and thus secure an annual revenue, not for sepulture, but for a mere temporary deposit. Such a traffic is absolutely horrible, presenting as it does, the constant alternations of inhumation and cremation. Let us hear what Mr. Walker says of this system, in reference to the HEALTH of the people. . . . Who will deny, then, after such statements as these, that it is the solemn duty of the legislature without delay to forbid burials in towns? The clergy, both established and dissenting, ought to blush with shame at their opposition to Mr. Walker. Their gains from grave-yards are unhallowed, and hollow indeed is the plea that they have a vested interest in acres of ground constantly exhaling deadly gases. Let the reader understand that the whole surface of the ramifying air-tubes in man amounts to one thousand four hundred feet, on which extraordinary surface the blood and atmospheric air are in contact with each other, being separated merely by a moist permeable membrane. . . . All the soft tissues are permeable by fluid and gaseous substances, and it is in accordance with that law that atmospheric air finds its way into the blood.—*London Sentinel*, April 11, 1846.

A pamphlet, very recently published, with the quaint heading of "BURIAL-GROUND INCENDIARISM," written by Mr. G. A. Walker, an untiring advocate for the suppression of interment within cities, will afford any one unacquainted with the details of our London church-yards a frightful bird's-eye view of the occurrences enacted in those pernicious nests of decomposition. He who is a stranger to the facts will shudder over their dismal record; he will hear of coffins and human bones piled up into bonefires, and burnt to make room for a fresh supply of the dead; he will be told of gravediggers driving their spades into the ground hap-hazard, (with injunctions to dig *through* whatever may intercept their progress), and casting up shovels full of flesh, and hair, and shrouds; he will will even hear of one Reuben Room, who asserted upon oath that he had at times stood up to his knees in human flesh, stamping with his feet to compress it into a narrow compass; he will read these things and possibly throw the pamphlet aside as an exaggeration—as a fiction. But those disclosures are all true—and more! It is from the hideous character of the facts, and from the terrible consequences which result from those facts, that we derive so much satisfaction on finding a movement just reviving for the correction of similar abuses in Spa-Fields Burial-ground—a spot notorious for their recurrence. The heart has a spontaneous impulse of joy at intelligence so much in accordance with its better feelings, with its reverence for the dead, and with its affection for the living. Hence do we look forward to the continuation of Mr. Mackinnon's efforts in a cause so politic and so venerable, while we are fain to anticipate that ecclesiastical interference in its behalf, of which Sir James Graham has spoken with so much confidence.—*Evening Sun,* April 25, 1846.

The improper practice of setting apart land in towns for the purpose of burials, has been very ably exposed in a series of letters, by G. A Walker, Esq., surgeon, of London. A host of information on the subject has been compiled by this gentleman, and we really know of no more acceptable service he could have rendered to society, than by exposing an evil pregnant with the worst consequences to the health of those who reside in the immediate vicinity of grave-yards, To Mr. Walker, the community is deeply indebted for bringing this subject forward in so able a manner, and we earnestly recommend the work he has just sent from the press to the attention of those interested in so important a question.—*Lynn Advertiser and West Norfolk Herald,* April 25, 1846.

Mr. Walker deserves well of his country and of his kind. He has had the moral courage to array himself against the wont of ages and religious prejudices on the one hand, and the sordidness and cupidity of a powerful class of men on the other; and, in the strength of truth and experience, to come out boldly against interments of human bodies within the precincts of large towns. The ignorant and the superstitious have long thought that their deceased friend's souls would stand a better chance of being garnered up in heaven if their dead bodies were huddled up close to the parish church, and especially if that church were thickly surrounded by human habitations. We are pained to add that this silly superstition has been greatly strengthened by clerical inculcation. . . . No wonder that the superstition should have so fast a hold upon the common mind, and that the national practice should be in accordance with it. But against this deep-rooted and long-cherished figment, Mr. Walker, like a true reformer and a sound philosopher, arrays himself. This is not all. He arrays himself against a more potent antagonist. The bankers, the capitalists, the rich corporators, who hold the large towns in leading-strings, are influenced by the motive-power of pounds, shillings, and pence, to encourage the superstition above-named, and perpetuate the burial of the dead in grounds which they have appropriated within the heart of crowded towns. This exclusive monopoly is as dear to these purse-proud worldlings as was the image of Diana sent down from Jupiter to the capitalists of Ephesus, who, by the worship of the image set up by them, got great gain. But Mr. Walker has had the boldness to beard these money-bears in their own dens; and, as some one somewhere says, he handles them without mittens. In a word,

this author, despite the railings of these interested men, clearly demonstrates the inexpediency and extreme danger of piling up the dead among the living; and the case which he makes out calls loudly on the legislature of the country to interpose the barriers of the law to prevent, in future, so vile and hurtful a practice. We commend the reading of Mr. Walker's pamphlet to all philanthropists and sound thinkers.—*The Weekly Intelligencer and Manx General Advertiser*, May 9, 1846.

Burials in London Grave-Yards.—We recently received a pamphlet entitled "Burial-Ground Incendiarism.—The Last Fire at the Bone-House in the Spa-Fields Golgotha, or, the Minute Anatomy of Grave-digging in London. By G. A. Walker, Surgeon, Member of several learned and scientific Societies, and Author of *Gatherings from Grave-Yards*," &c., &c. Under this quaint title, the author has presented us with a summary of the proceedings he has taken in connection with the object he has endeavoured to promote—the suppression of intra-mural interment—during the whole period which his patriotic labours have occupied. His narrative is both interesting and painful. It is such a one as ought to be generally read and duly considered. It presents a humiliating picture of the extent to which disgusting brutality may be carried by those who profit thereby; and affords a sad proof of the manner in which human health may be injured, and human life sacrificed, without meeting the interference of society or the Legislature, when reverend fee-takers have an interest in maintaining a system by which these results are produced. It contains a terrible reproach upon the age in which we live, but especially upon the inhabitants of the great city. It will be read with wonder, indeed, a generation or so hence, when men have grown wiser and priestcraft has grown weaker.

To the people of a future age, the details of the pamphlet will certainly appear marvellous and incredible—like the wild dream of an oriental, or a strange story in the "Arabian Nights' Entertainments." But marvellous and incredible as they will hereafter appear, we know them to be true—too true.

In 1835, it appears, Mr. Walker began to collect important data relative to the system of burying in towns; in 1839 he published a powerfully-written work upon the subject; and in the year 1842 he was instrumental in procuring the appointment of a Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the matter. In the interim, however, he had not been idle; for in June, 1841, he addressed a letter to the Bishop of London, calling his Lordship's attention to the condition of the grave-yards of London; but, although he visited his Lordship twice by invitation, no satisfactory conclusions were attained; in January, 1842, he addressed a communication to Sir James Graham, Bart., who was at that time Secretary of State for the Home Department; and in the month of February following he sent a petition to Parliament, which led to the appointment of the Committee already named.

In the letter to Sir James Graham, Mr. Walker drew up a brief but forcible account of the system of burial pursued at that time. He showed therein that the ordinary dangers of interment are much increased in this country by our manner of burying the dead in soil overcharged with putrescent animal matter, which is the deposit of previous burials; and that, consequently, injurious exhalations from the frequent up-turning of the earth cannot be prevented; that bodies are, in London at least, placed one above another, to the depth of 25 or 30 feet, while the topmost coffin is but a few inches from the surface; that there are men who have unblushingly made the disposal of the dead a source of income to an almost incredible extent; that during the periods when the weather has been warm and the air has been moist at the same time, the foul odours exhaling from the grave-yards have frequently been in the highest degree offensive; and that the mutilation of dead bodies has been gross, frequent, and revolting to the sense of decency possessed by all men, and often accompanied by the removal or burning of the same! To such an extent as this had the practices of the London grave-diggers been carried in 1842; and, we fear, they have not been much improved since. But the most startling statement of the whole is this: It has been ascertained that in London proper there is not ground for the burial of more than 109,000 adult bodies, while the number now yearly interred therein is about 52,000.

If, therefore, the ground were all virgin soil, and burial were to commence afresh, it would be quite filled, on a system of decent and undisturbed interment, in less than three years. Leaving each body five years in which to become decomposed, then, the ground ought not to be meddled with again until eight years from the time of its being first opened. When, however, we recollect that most of these places have been common burying-grounds for centuries, and the remainder of them for many years, it will be at once perceived that a system of desecration of the remains of the dead, of the vilest and most atrocious description, has been practised by the gravediggers, connived at by many of the clergy and ministry of the churches and chapels, and tacitly permitted by all who have not stood forth to expose the abominations and denounce the guilty parties in the manner which their conduct richly merited.

The last, however, is no light nor enviable task, as Mr. Walker has proved. No sooner had the Committee of the House of Commons reported that, after a long and patient investigation, they could arrive at no other conclusion than that the nuisance of interments in large towns, and the injury arising to the health of the community therefrom, *had been clearly proved*,—than he was personally assailed in a virulent style, and with gross unfairness, by an anonymous writer, to whom, we regret to say, the *Patriot* lent its columns. This writer—himself concealed from attack, but supposed to be a Dissenting Doctor of Divinity and a regular minister of the gospel—poured forth a volley of abuse upon Mr. Walker; attempted to throw doubt upon the evidence given before the Parliamentary Committee, which he styled a "mere jumble of nonsense, folly, and falsehood;" and decried the testimony of the medical practitioners, while he attempted to prove the superiority of that which *Undertakers* and *Clergymen* might offer!

Now, what has been proved to exist in connection with the very burial-ground which the *Patriot's* correspondent undertook to preserve from the exposure it has since undergone? Why, that although it would not at any time before its enlargement in February, 1845, admit of the decent interment of more than 1,361 dead bodies, an average of 1,500 had been buried therein *yearly*, and, from first to last, it is said to have received the remains of 80,000 human beings; that the coffins of the dead have been regularly broken up and burnt by the Ghouls of the place—a police inspector having detected them in the very act in their "bone-house;" and that bodies have been chopped up and "disposed of," so as to enable the menials of the ground to cram more bodies in the already over-charged soil. These and many other matters have been given on testimony, the validity of which cannot be called in question. We might enter further into the horrid details connected with the history of the grave-yard, which have been deposed to on oath; but we refrain from doing so, for we have already said sufficient to convince our readers that the evils attendant upon the system demand an instant remedy. We must not, however, omit the insertion of one fact relative to the profits realised from the system of burying the dead here described, more especially as they were received by the minister of one of the charnel-houses to which Mr. Walker has called particular attention—Enon Chapel. It seems from October 6, 1822, to December, 1828, the late minister and proprietor of the place, who lived on the premises during the time the interments were made under the chapel—and who was styled "one of the most amiable, pious, and upright Christian ministers" by the *Patriot's* correspondent—received, for packing away dead bodies in a cellar measuring 59 by 29 feet, the sum of NINE-HUNDRED AND FIFTY-ONE POUNDS FIVE SHILLINGS!

We cannot conclude this article without expressing our regret that Mr. Walker should have encountered the opposition, and incurred the odium, he has done in his praiseworthy endeavours to suppress the grave-yard nuisance. He ought rather to have earned for himself the public approbation. But we do not doubt that his ability, high motives, unconquerable courage, and loss of time and money in the pursuit of his object, will even yet be properly appreciated by his countrymen; and that the slander cast upon him by parties interested in the preservation of the abuse he has so vigorously laid bare, and the efforts of those who would filch from him the merit of having struck the first and hardest blow at the evil, will eventually be despised and—forgotten.—*The Leicester Chronicle*, May 2, 1846.

We have, on various former occasions, referred at considerable length, to the meritorious efforts of Mr. George A. Walker, surgeon, to rid the metropolis of one of its greatest and most injurious nuisances, namely, its crowded burial-grounds. His services in this way have been above all praise. And none but a man of high moral courage and indomitable energy of character, could have laboured as he has done in a vineyard so uninviting. He has the consolation of knowing that he has not laboured in vain. Though his efforts have not yet been crowned with actual success, no one who is acquainted with the state of public feeling on the subject of our metropolitan grave-yards, can doubt that the day is at hand which will see his views fully carried out. In a few years, the fruitful source of disease and death, which is to be found in the pestilential effluvia emitted from the burial places of London, will be removed by the special interposition of the Legislature.

Mr. Walker has lately issued a new publication on the subject. The little work has been specially called forth in consequence of the frightful disclosures made in the public journals some time ago respecting the burning of dead bodies in Spa-Fields burying-ground. Mr. Walker's pamphlet has made its appearance at a most seasonable moment. The announcement recently made by the new Premier, that the sanitary condition of large towns has already attracted the attention of government, and will be made the subject of early legislation, invests the question with a peculiar importance. It is impossible that the general sanitary condition of the metropolis can be gone into, and so important a feature in that question as the crowded state of our grave-yards, be excluded from consideration. The metropolitan sanitary improvements that would leave the burying-grounds untouched, would be altogether undeserving the name. The abatement of these nuisances must be provided for in any Bill that may be brought in for improving the sanitary condition of populous towns.

We cannot enter into the details which Mr. Walker brings before the public in illustration of the serious injury done to the public health by means of our over-crowded grave-yards. They are too revolting to be given in the columns of a public journal. We may, however, refer to some of his more general statements. In a communication addressed to Sir James Graham, when Secretary for the Home Department, Mr. Walker says,—"Among us, the ordinary dangers of interment are much increased by our manner of disposing of the dead. Grave after grave is dug in soil, frequently so overcharged with putrescent animal matter, that it is impossible to prevent the corruption of the atmosphere from the exhalations unavoidably arising from the frequent upturning of the earth. In many instances, bodies are placed one above another and side by side, until the accumulated masses of corruption have reached a depth of 25 or 30 feet, the topmost coffins being but a few inches from the surface. The condition of the majority of grave-yards and burying-places in London has been such for many years that they have not been capable of receiving the annual mortality. There are men who have unblushingly made the disposal of the dead a source of income, to an extent that few would believe. Some private speculators have long known that a freehold grave-yard is infinitely preferable, as a source of profit, to any other property. There is scarcely a single grave-yard, vault, or receptacle for the dead in London that is not overcharged.'

These are important facts. They ought, long before now, to have attracted the attention of Parliament. Mr. Walker's pamphlet ought to be in the hands of every member of the Legislature.

In another place he communicates facts which it is important should be known in high places. "The mortality of the metropolis," says he, "at the present computation of 52,000 annually, will in five years be 260,000. The lowest possible period that should be allowed for the destruction of the human body in graves would be five years. An acre of ground contains 43,560 square feet, which, divided by the proper measure of square feet, gives for a single (adult) interment 1,361 as the number of spaces left for graves. If the burying-grounds in London, some of which have been in use for centuries, contain only 80 acres, portions of which have been pre-occupied by monuments, tombs, head-stones, and otherwise, this space would receive and give burial to nearly 109,000 bodies—a calculation which would leave, during any given five years, the mortality, as above stated,

being 52,000 per annum, 151,000 bodies to be disposed of, or, in other words, uninterred! It is thus demonstrated that bodies have been placed in spaces utterly inadequate to contain them; hence has resulted a shocking state of things—the mutilation of bodies, the destruction of their coffins, with a host of immoral consequences and injurious results."

We need not multiply quotations from Mr. Walker's little work. Neither can any comments be needed on those we have given. They speak for themselves, and will, we trust, be brought prominently under the consideration of Ministers before maturing their contemplated measure for improving the sanitary condition of the metropolis.—*Morning Advertiser*, Aug. 11, 1846.

Burial-Ground Incendiarism.—Mr. Walker, surgeon, has long laboured to expose the horrible and disgusting system pursued in metropolitan grave-yards, where layer over layer of coffins is placed promiscuously with a total disregard for decency. . . . The anatomy of grave-digging in London, as portrayed by Mr. Walker, and the fire at the bone-house in the Spa-Fields Golgotha, is an exposé of the most frightful description, and worthy of being ranked amongst the horrible "Mysteries of London." The author of this book has laboured for years in order to promote a reform in church-yard doings, but as such grievances are only to be swept away through agitation, Mr. Walker is about to pursue the plan of public meetings in furtherance of his object. The authorities ought to blush to see a private individual like Mr. Walker labour to remove a nuisance that "stinks i' the nostrils" of every metropolitan inhabitant. The present state of the grave-yards is sufficient to breed a plague—and a plague on those, say we, who have the power to amend the evil and yet turn a deaf ear to the subject.—*The Satirist*, July 19, 1846.

The author of the present work is well and honourably known for his exertions in the cause of the public, in reference to the sanatory condition of towns, as far as the burial of the dead within the precincts of large cities is concerned. We believe his first work on the subject was entitled "Gatherings from Grave-Yards," and in it he exposed not only the unavoidably unhealthy nature of places of burial, in crowded neighbourhoods, but, also, the mal-administration of several of these receptacles of the dead, arising from the cupidity of the proprietors, when they were attached to chapels, and of the incumbents of parishes and others, when connected with episcopalian places of worship. . . . . Few were bold enough to endeavour to confute his arguments, as to the injury inflicted on public health by the existence of these accumulations of corruption in populous places; but great was the outcry against the invasion of vested interests, which, in this instance, were to be considered as paramount to every public benefit. Mammon had erected his altar even in sacred places, and the ministers of religion, in many instances, opposed every reform in the system, for the sake of—filthy lucre! The author was also accused of falsehood, and denounced as an agent for the cemeteries, which are now springing up around the Metropolis, to the manifest benefit of the health of its population.

The two nuisances, *par excellence*, were the Spa-Fields burying-ground, and a miserable place of burial under Enon Chapel; until lately, a place of worship, in the confined neighbourhood of Clement's Lane. This horrible cellar, for it is little else, is thus described by the author. . . . .

The necessary consequence of this state of things in the Spa-Fields burial-ground was the increase of febrile diseases in the neighbourhood. These facts being brought under the notice of the authorities, the burnings were discontinued, and the worst portion of the ground was closed; but still the injury to the health of the neighbourhood seems undiminished, and, only a few days since, it was stated by a medical practitioner residing in the neighbourhood, that disease was frequent in the locality, on account of the newly-made graves being filled by the filthy drainings from the abandoned ground, the liquid being afterwards pumped out and conveyed into the common sewer, to the manifest injury of the health of the district. Much has already been done for the improvement of the health of the Metropolis; and the de-

creasing ratio of deaths prove that the exertions of the Government and individuals have been, to a certain extent, successful; and we doubt not that the perusal of the pamphlet now lying before us, will still further tend to increase the efforts now making to improve the health of our dense population, and consequently the intellectual and social condition of society; for the healthy state of the mind and the body are so intimately connected that one cannot exist without the other.—*Chemist*, May, 1846.

Sous ce titre vient de paraître à Londres une brochure dont nous avons reçu un exemplaire.

Il serait impossible à ceux qui ne l'ont pas lu de se faire une idée de la cupidité et de la dégradation morale qui existe au centre même de la première capitale du monde. Plusieurs des cimetières de Londres appartiennent à des particuliers, qui les font valoir eux-mêmes ou qui les afferment. De là vient que ceux qui les exploitent tâchent d' en tirer autant de profit que possible, et dans ce but, y enterrent le plus de morts possible, au grand détriment de la salubrité publique et de la vie même des habitans, particulièrement de ceux qui habitent dans le voisinage immédiat de ces charniers.

Depuis plusieurs années, l'auteur de cette brochure a fait les plus louables efforts pour obtenir le transfer hors l'énceinte des villes, de ces réceptacles de corruption si dangereux. Dès 1838, il publia un ouvrage " *Gatherings from Grave-Yards*," dans lequel il démontre les effets pernicieux qu'ont les exhalaisons qui sortent des cimetières sur la santé et la vie des habitans, et insiste fortement sur la nécessité de faire disparaître la cause de ces effets. Son ouvrage et les démarches qu'il fît dans l'intérêt de l'humanité lui attirérent la haîne et les injures de ceux qui étaient ou directement ou indirectement intéressés au maintien des abominations qui se commettaient dans ces lieux, particulièrement d'un Mr. Bird, directeur du cimetière de Spa-Fields, qui nia l'exactitude des faits mis au jour.

L'auteur de la brochure, loin de se décourager d'une opposition à laquelle il avait dû compter, poursuivit ses investigations. Armé des pièces de conviction, il adressa en 1841 une lettre à l'évêque de Londres sur le sujet, et en 1842, il adressa une communication à Sir James Graham, demontrant qu'il n'y avait presque pas un cimètière à Londres qui ne fût encombré. Il adressa ensuite une pétition à la Chambre de Communes demandant qu'un comité fût nommé pour faire une enquête sur les faits qu'il avait signalé. La chambre acquiesça à sa demande, et nomma un comité, qui constata de la manière la plus positive l'existence de toutes les abominations signalées par M. Walker, comme on le verra par les quelques extraits de la brochure, que nous allons donner.—*Le Miroir, Journal des Progres*, April 25, 1846.

GATHERINGS FROM GRAVE-YARDS, 1839; THE GRAVE-YARDS OF LONDON, 1841; INTERMENT AND DISINTERMENT, 1843; BURIAL-GROUND INCENDIARISM, 1846.—These are not new publications, but they call pressingly for attention at a moment when the sanatory state of towns is about to be brought under the consideration of government. Mr. Walker has done his country good service in exposing sources of pestilence, maintained with such pertinacity by those who make a gain through the disgusting proceedings he details. The burial fees of the church too will be serious obstacles in the way of the removal of interments from crowded cities, when the measure comes to be made a church question, which it is certain to be if it touches profits.—*Douglas Jerrold's Newspaper*, Aug. 9, 1846.

GATHERINGS FROM GRAVE-YARDS;

Particularly those of London:

WITH A CONCISE

HISTORY OF THE MODES OF INTERMENT AMONG DIFFERENT NATIONS FROM THE EARLIEST PERIODS,

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By GEO. ALFD. WALKER, Surgeon,

MEMBER OF SEVERAL LEARNED AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

OPINIONS OF THE LONDON AND PROVINCIAL PRESS.

We will not attempt to offer any comments on the facts which have here been detailed; they speak for themselves. . . . It only remains for us to say, that it will be found well worth the perusal of every person at all interested in the preservation of the health, decency, and cleanliness of the metropolis; and may, perhaps, prove not unacceptable to the general reader, as presenting a complete and curious history of the different modes of interment which have been resorted to among different nations, as well as for its novel description of the burial places of London, which, we believe, have never, until now, formed the subject of any work. In taking our final leave, we must, in justice to Mr. Walker, state that the book is clearly and vividly written, and the author deserves great credit for the industry and zeal which he has displayed in his by no means agreeable researches among the grave-yards; we hope, however, that he may reap a full reward for his labours, by seeing the disgusting nuisance against which he has declared war at least mitigated, even if not altogether put a stop to.—*Dr. Johnson's Medico-Chirurgical Review*, Jan. 1, 1840.

In contemplating the advancement of any great public good, it is ever a most gratifying task to be able to connect each onward step with the praiseworthy efforts of its promoters. Rarely does it happen that labours such as these originate with, or are maintained by, a single individual; but in the consideration of the subject to which we shall beg leave to direct the attention of our readers, we are enabled at once to trace back the origin, development, and increasing advocacy of one of the most important questions in relation to public *hygiène* to the labours of one individual, a member of our own profession. . . . . In Mr. George Alfred Walker we recognise the untiring and successful opponent of a custom so baneful, and, from the limited views of parochial economists, so general, amongst us. The labours of the author of "Gatherings from Grave-Yards" are too generally and too favourably known both to the profession and the public, to need any recital at our hands; but it is with pleasure that we are enabled to record his unwearied perseverance, as we also hope ere long to record the complete fulfilment of the excellent project whose advocate he is. Those who have perused the works of Mr. Walker must have become fully conversant with the extent to which intra-mural interment is carried, and the deleterious agency which such practices produce. That the source of much of the disease occurring in the crowded neighbourhoods of London, more especially in those immediately adjacent to large parochial church-yards, is to be found in the noisome effluvia and gaseous exhalations generated by the continued decomposition of animal matter *very near*, and by no means unfrequently *upon*, the surface of the ground, is most incontestably proved. —*Provincial Medical Journal*, June, 1843.

In the third section of his treatise, Mr. Walker takes a rapid view of the state of the principal burying-grounds in the metropolis. The loathsome scenes, which a sense of duty compels him to disclose, are enough to excite the disgust of the most apathetic, and their exposure must, sooner or later, have the effect of working out the salutary reformation for which Mr. Walker has laboured with such praiseworthy diligence, energy, and talent. Mr. Walker has personally examined the principal burying grounds, and shown, in the clearest manner, that thousands of bodies are annually interred in places which are barely calculated to contain as many hundreds. The effects of this on the *morale* and *physique* of the surrounding population are vividly depicted by the author. We recommend the general reader to meditate on them. With this recommendation, we close our notice of Mr. Walker's treatise. It is in every respect a remarkable production, and reflects the greatest credit on the qualities of his head and heart. Notwithstanding the labours of an extensive general practice, Mr. Walker has found time to investigate a subject of *very great importance to the health of the public;* he has succeeded in the work now before us in awakening an unusual degree of public attention to the subject of intra-mural sepulture; and we trust that Mr. Walker will not weary in his well-doing, but continue his exertions until this blot be wiped from our national character.—*Lancet*, 3rd notice, Jan., 1840.

This is a book which we earnestly recommend to the philanthropist, to the general reader, and to those in authority. To the first, it furnishes the means of benefiting the working classes especially, by pointing out one great source, if not the greatest source, of contagious disease and death in all crowded cities; to the second, it will, independent of its utility, afford considerable interest from its literary merit; to the third, it points out a duty incumbent on them to be stirring in the removal of a great evil.—*Weekly Chronicle*, Dec. 1, 1839.

A work which has just been published under the somewhat quaint title of "Gatherings from Grave-Yards," is likely, we think, to attract no small share of attention from the medical profession, and the public generally. It is from the pen of G. A. Walker, Esq., a metropolitan surgeon, and has for its object to expose the "dangerous and fatal results which arise from the custom of inhuming the dead in the midst of the living." The facts brought forward by Mr. Walker in support of these positions are of the most startling character, and deserve the earliest and deepest consideration of all who are interested in the physical and moral well-being of their fellow-men. The grave-yards of the metropolis have particularly attracted the notice of the author, and from forty to fifty of such receptacles for the dead are described from personal examination, Some of these places, more particularly in the author's own immediate neighbourhood (Drury-lane), and other densely populated districts, would seem to be in a condition the most disgusting and dangerous that can be imagined. Mr. Walker ably exposes the iniquities of what are called private burying-places; that is, vaults underneath, or grounds connected with, Dissenting meeting-houses. . . . Mr. Walker has manifestly given much labour and research to the subject of which he treats, and has brought together a vast body of facts of the most important character, very many of them from his own professional experience. . . . Mr. Walker has performed, and performed well, an important duty in calling attention thus prominently to a matter so nearly relative to public health. He argues strenuously and eloquently for legislative interference to compel the adoption of a safer and more decent system in these places of sepulture, and, it appears, has made application to Government on the subject.—*Morning Post*, Nov. 25, 1839.

We close the book with an earnest recommendation to our fellow-citizens, for their health's sake, to make themselves acquainted with its facts, that they may be convinced of the evil.—*Weekly True Sun.*

"Gatherings from Grave-Yards," by G. A. Walker, surgeon, affords another proof of the vicious folly of interring the dead within the walls of a densely-populated city. Our continental friends will be surprised, on the perusal of this work, to find the citizens of London, in this particular, so far behind the rest of the world.—*Foreign Quarterly Review*, Jan., 1840.

Public attention—we wish we could add the attention of those in authority—has latterly been called more than once to the all-important subject of which this volume treats; and his fellow-citizens owe a heavy and lasting debt of gratitude to Mr. Walker, for the energy, knowledge, sound reasoning, and patient and laborious investigation, which he has employed in the execution of a most painful task—a task, we can readily believe, self-imposed, from motives of stern and inexorable duty.—*Era*, Dec. 1, 1839.

We are of opinion that no burial-place whatsoever should be permitted within cities or towns. . . . A gentleman of the name of Walker, a surgeon, has lately published a volume, entitled "Gatherings from Grave-Yards," in which this question is discussed at considerable length. His illustrations are of a very forcible character, and show, most clearly, the prejudicial effect of cramming corpse after corpse, year after year, into the narrow confines of a church or chapel-yard, which is surrounded by a dense population. We see neither sense nor reason in the disgusting practice, and the sooner it is put an end to, the better it will be for the moral and the physical health of the community at large.—*Preston Chronicle*, March 19, 1842.

Our readers are doubtless aware that the immensity of the abomination of intra-mural interment in London—its dangers to the health of the living—its degradation of their morals—the shameless charnel-house traffic carried on by the grave-diggers and sextons—the most inhuman violation of graves—the mutilation and ejection of recently-interred corpses, in order to make room for new occupants of these transitory resting-places—these were first fully brought before the attention of the public (after existing and increasing for more than a century, with a few occasional isolated and inefficient attempts to remedy the nuisance) by Mr. Walker, the surgeon, of Drury-lane, in a work entitled "Gatherings from Grave-Yards," published in 1839. We know very well that attempts have been made to throw discredit on Mr. Walker's statements, by persons who are interested in the perpetration of the nuisance, or who are annoyed at its exposure; and the most unheard-of loathsomeness of some of the practices which he described, caused them to be for a while regarded by many as exaggerations of the realities. Undismayed by any attacks, however, Mr. Walker has followed up the exposure from that time to the present with the most admirable patience, industry, and intrepidity. We believe we are correct in stating that it was through his persevering solicitation that the Committee of the House of Commons was obtained in 1842, which, having established the truth of his statements, by a most overwhelming mass of evidence, gave birth to an abortive attempt at legislation in the same year.—*Provincial Medical Journal*, Jan. 6, 1844.

This gentleman deserves the highest praise for the pains he has taken in investigating personally the actual state of our burial-grounds and system of burying, and in collecting all the facts that bear upon the important though repulsive subject. We have read every line of his book, and, if it affect others only half as much as it has done us, it must inevitably produce an excitement which will end in a thorough reform of the horrors complained of, in spite of parsons' fees, vestry-room economics, or the profits of companies or individuals, who would care not if they made all London one Golgotha, provided only they made money by it. We trust, indeed, that the next session of Parliament will not be allowed to pass without removing this foul blot from the national escutcheon. In the meanwhile, we earnestly call the attention of our legislators to Mr. Walker's book. Many of them will find horrors in it which they never dreamed of in their rose-coloured and sweet-scented philosophy. Our author's account of the manner in which the dead were first allowed to make foul and horrible the inmost recesses, the vaults, aisles, and galleries of the very house of God, is exceedingly curious, and is correct to the letter; indeed, more than half his book is amusing as a literary essay, and interesting as a piece of antiquarianism.—*Metropolitan Magazine*, Dec. 1, 1839.

This is a learned and practical work of great merit.—*Hull Packet*, December 6, 1839.

The scope and character of this singular and valuable work will be inferred from the above generally descriptive notice; and we cannot too emphatically repeat our opinion that its contents and tendencies are alike of the most beneficial nature. It cannot fail, and most deservedly, to excite great attention; we certainly shall again look into the book, and again speak thereof.—*Morning Advertiser*, Dec. 14, 1839.

The very interesting, as well as really important, work of Mr. Walker, the surgeon, on the subject of the "Grave-Yards" of London, and on the consequences to the living from the present still too general system of burying the dead, deserves further notice. The public health is of public importance, and he who points out existing evils is doing national service. There are very full and really appalling details illustrative of the dangers arising from the decomposition of animal matter, and the diseases generated by it; but after the above general descriptions, we must content ourselves with referring those to the work who wish for more extended particulars; and we trust that the number may be neither few nor uninfluential.—*Morning Advertiser* (second notice).

This work, though painful and repulsive in its details, is yet one which the exigencies of our crowded metropolis have loudly called for. . . . The moral consideration of this question might be pursued to indefinite length; but there is another more likely to have weight with the world, which the author of the work before us most powerfully adduces. It is that of the pernicious effect upon health to which the contiguity of the grave-yard exposes the inhabitant of the city. Mr. Walker has demonstrated in the clearest and most forcible manner, that disease, in its worst form, is generated by the pestilential atmosphere of these wretched receptacles for the dead, and has strenuously urged the adoption of general measures for enforcing the prohibition of interment in the vicinity of the living. His appeal is made to the Executive, with the conviction that ultimately the question must become one for the consideration of Government; we join in that appeal, and concur in that opinion, in the earnest hope that this necessary reform may speedily be effected.—*Morning Herald*, Dec. 20, 1839.

The grave is truly now a grave subject. The present writer does not even philosophise upon it; but he does better perhaps—he lays before us some interesting historical records touching the funeral ceremonies of different nations and ages, and some important facts that come still more home to our bosoms and business, regarding the dangerous and detestable practice of burying the dead in the hearts of our great cities.—*Colburn's New Monthly Magazine*, Dec. 1, 1839.

The title of this book sufficiently explains its design, and the name of the author is a sufficient guarantee for the aptitude of its contents.—*Monthly Magazine*, Jan., 1839.

—— We therefore take our leave, sincerely hoping that Mr. Walker may reap the reward of his labours, and live to see the nuisance he wars against abated, if not altogether got rid of.—*Athenæum*, Nov. 23, 1842.

Under the quaint title of "Gatherings from Grave-Yards," Surgeon Walker exhibits such a picture of the repulsive associations and pestilential influences connected with the burial of the dead in the vicinity of the living, as to occasion some very natural astonishment that the subject has never been taken up by Government. . . . Mr. Walker is well entitled to the gratitude of the public for the ability with which he has penetrated the subject in all its details. . . . He has entered elaborately into the different methods of interment employed in former ages by different nations of the earth, so that his book is really a historical treatise as well as a medical essay, embracing the entire range of all the illustrative matter that can be brought to bear upon the inquiry. It will amply repay perusal. —*Monthly Chronicle.*

A work which deserves to be attentively studied by all who would preserve the health of the living, and honour the remains of the dead.—*Britannia.*

Mr. Walker's book is decidedly the most startling that has for some time past issued from the press; and, if his opinions and suggestions are carried out, it will be the most useful to the public health that has appeared for years. —*Medical Times* (third notice).

To all those who are curious about Christian burial, we recommend the perusal of this work. Lugubrious as the subject is, the ingenious writer has contrived to divest it of much of its revolting details, and to present to the reader information which is interesting, and to bring before the public in a forcible manner some useful practical suggestions. To the medical man it is a manual of facts necessary to be borne in mind; to the legislator it is the exposure of evils which peremptorily demand a remedy.—*Courier.*

The author of the present work, Mr. G. A. Walker, a surgeon, of Drury-lane, discusses the fatal effects arising from the effluvia of bodies in decomposition, the evasion of the law with respect to the depth of graves, the insecurity of leaden coffins, and the danger to churches by undermining walls and towers for the purpose of constructing vaults. An immense mass of important facts is collected on the subject, and the descriptions of the state of the church-yards in the crowded parts of our metropolis may make foreigners rank us as the very worst of savages.—*Weekly Dispatch*, November 24, 1839.

We have great pleasure in referring to a volume just published by Mr. G. A. Walker, a surgeon of experience, entitled "Gatherings from Grave-Yards, particularly those of London," in which the horrible consequences resulting from the modes of interment practised, in almost every part of the metropolis, is clearly and practically demonstrated. Mr. Walker has been most industrious in the collection of his facts, and furnishes a vast number of anecdotes, highly interesting, not only as to the modes of burial from the earliest periods, but as to the *revolting practices in modern times*, and close to the very threshholds of the unsuspecting.—*Bell's Life*, Dec. 1, 1830.

This is a strange book, a very strange book, and must make a sad and solemn impression upon every reader who peruses it with proper feelings. It is full of facts of an appalling nature, and the reasoning of the author upon them carries conviction with it. His object is to show that burial places in the neighbourhood of the living, are, in his "opinion, a national evil, the harbingers, if not the originators, of pestilence, the cause direct or indirect of inhumanity, immorality, and irreligion;" and well and forcibly does he make out his position. The book will create a sensation. We advise our readers to look into it, for assuredly it contains a very great deal meriting their most serious consideration.—*Derby Mercury*, Dec. 18, 1839.

Bearing this startling, but singularly apt title, the present volume, although discussing a sufficiently loathsome and appalling subject, is nevertheless unquestionably, of its class, one of the most interesting, valuable, and deserving of study, that we have perhaps ever met with. Its main design is the exposure of those dangerous and fatal results which arise from the unwise and offensive custom of interring the dead in the margins of our thronged thoroughfares—in the midst of our overcrowded cities. The details, illustrative of the vicious folly of this revolting system, have been industriously and carefully "gathered" by Mr. Walker, and, for the most part, related with much force and effect.—*The British Friend of India Magazine.*

Mr. Walker's exertions, as developed not only in this, bu in his subsequently published works, "The Grave-Yards of London," and "Interment and Disinterment," entitle him to the very highest commendation. We do trust they will be rewarded by an immediate and complete abolition of the noisome and intolerable nuisance he has so graphically described, and so ably denounced.—*The British Friend of India Magazine*, Nov. 1843.

The object of this interesting and valuable work is to point out the danger of the prevailing practice of burying the dead in crowded cities, and in the close vicinage of the living. . . . If illustrative instances be necessary to establish the correctness of Mr. Walker's appeal to the government, the reader will find abundance of such matter in the book.—*Atlas.*

Mr. Walker's work collects into a small compass details the most horrifying, as affects the repose of the dead and the health of the living; but he accompanies this awful exposure with suggestions which, if attended to, will work its cure. It is the positive duty of the Government to enter on the business of purification—a duty from which no Government, after the publication of this book, can be suffered to flinch. . . . Mr. Walker has here laid the foundation of a reform of the most important and indispensable character, and in so doing has raised a monument to his own philanthropy.—*Church of England Quarterly Review.*

If anything were yet wanting to convince the living of the dangerous and fatal results produced by the unwise and revolting custom of inhuming the dead amidst their dwellings and places of common resort, this work would inevitably have that effect. The fatal consequences attending the practice are stated to conviction in the arguments of the author, and the various facts of pestilence and sudden death given by way of illustration, afford horrible evidence of their truth. The work also affords some very curious information on the practice of ancient nations in the disposal of their dead, in which the curious reader will not fail to find much that will inform and amuse him. It is a production which deserves the serious consideration of the public.—*Argus*, Nov. 24, 1839.

The public are indebted to Dr. Walker, of Drury-lane, London, for exposing the crowded state of the grave-yards, not only in the metropolis, but in other densely-populated cities. Having published a work, entitled "Gatherings from Grave-Yards," containing some alarming facts relative to the evil, Dr. Walker succeeded in attracting to it the attention of Parliament. . . . We place this chapter of horrors before our readers, not for the purpose of harrowing their feelings, but to urge them to encourage the improved methods of burial which have lately been adopted by means of suburban cemeteries. We know it is a painful subject to treat, particularly to those most interested. The sacred associations which cling around the "family vault," wherever placed, it seems almost cruel to disturb. But to the really reflecting mind, such sentiments, sacred as they are, will give place to realities; and the welfare of the living will be more urgently considered than notions, merely sentimental, which lead to the improper burial of the dead.—*Chambers' Edinburgh Journal*, Sept. 16, 1843.

This is a very singular volume. Mr. Walker's attention is chiefly given to a description of the burial-places of the metropolis, with especial reference to the fatal results produced by the custom of "inhuming the dead in the midst of the living." We have not for a length of time perused a work more full of sound sense and proper feeling. We defy any one to read Mr. Walker's extraordinary accumulation of facts without being convinced of the importance of the case which he so fully makes out. The account given of the various churches, and the anecdotes, biographies, &c., which are introduced, are singularly interesting; but even without these the book is so startling in its details, that it must command attention. Mr. Walker's history of the modes of interment among different nations, from the earliest periods, is highly elucidatory of his subject, for introducing which to public notice he deserves the greatest praise.—*Age*, Nov. 24, 1839.

We see brought before us all the treasures of charnel-house history; all that the grave-yard, the vault, and the crypt could supply. Much of the information is very good, many of the facts startling, and the reflections appended to them forcible and appropriate.—*Court Gazette.*

These statements are quite sufficient to establish the fact of a great and intolerable nuisance in the heart of a populous city, and which ought by every means to be abated without delay. It is not necessary to prove that the practice is capable of producing positive disease. . . . But if the public authorities in London and other large towns are not satisfied of the slow and progressive, but certain homicide, which they are authorising among the inhabitants, they have only to look into the present volume to obtain satisfactory evidence of the truth.—*The Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, April 1, 1840.

The public in general, but more especially his professional brethren, are under considerable obligations to Mr. Walker for the publication of this work. He entered upon a painful and loathsome inquiry, and though exposed, in the course of his investigations, to many annoyances, arising from the cupidity of interested individuals, or the apathy of those satisfied with the existing state of the grave-yards, because, in their blindness, they see no danger, he has displayed much ability, and sound medical knowledge. . . . The subject is one from which a less original and humane mind would have shrunk. We sincerely trust that the public will not be slow to acknowledge the obligation they owe Mr. Walker, who, we repeat, has evinced perseverance, and a calm spirit of philosophical inquiry and judgment in the treatment of his subject. —*Polytechnic Journal.*

The work now announced has been for some time before the public, and has received a considerable degree of that attention which its importance demands. Mr. Walker's benevolent and praiseworthy efforts on behalf of "the living" have not altogether failed of producing their designed effect, as we understand a bill is likely to be passed by the Imperial Parliament, prohibiting the interment of the dead in the midst of densely-populated localities. Certainly, to him are due the thanks of the entire community for the diligence and perseverance which he has manifested in bringing into public view the revolting scenes which are often enacted in grave-yards, and the great evils resulting from *the near contact of the living with the pestiferous effluvium exhaled from the bodies of the dead.* The work, considered entire, is such as entitles its author to no small degree of credit; its style is agreeable, lucid, and energetic; the facts it adduces are presented in a strong and effective point of view; and the arguments it contains on the leading topics of discussion are equally influential in commanding the assent of our reason, and in moving the common sympathies of our nature.—*General Advertiser*, Jan., 1843.

So powerful an appeal as this, and one which excites so shuddering and painful an interest, could only be justified by strong necessity. That the necessity does exist of pointing out the loss of life directly as well as indirectly consequent on "INHUMING THE DEAD IN THE MIDST OF THE LIVING," Mr. Walker has shown by an industrious collection of striking and irrefragable facts. . . . We have said enough to show how fully justified Mr. Walker is in calling the attention of the public mind to this frightful subject, and how much he deserves the thanks of the community for the care and perseverance with which he has discharged his unattractive task.—*Lincoln Standard.*

This is a very timely publication. We think that the author has produced arguments and statements which go far to prove that our public church-yards and burying-grounds should be immediately shut up and discontinued.—*Nottingham Review.*

In a startling but powerfully written volume called "Gatherings from Grave-Yards," it is truly frightful to behold the appalling auxiliary power crowded burial places possess to hasten disease and immediate death; and it is, doubtless, through the highly talented and indefatigable energies of the author of that work (Mr. G. A. Walker, an eminent surgeon), aided by the strong commendations of the public press, that the Bill now pending in Parliament upon this subject originally derived its sources of matter for legislative discussion. The *Edinburgh Medical Journal* observes, "If the public and parochial authorities in London and its environs are not satisfied of the slow and progressive but certain homicide which daily occurs among the inhabitants of crowded localities contiguous to burial-grounds, they have only to look into the present volume ("Gatherings from Grave-Yards") to obtain the most satisfactory evidence of the truth." Many able reviews of the same work by the London and Provincial journals fully establish Mr. Walker's disquisitions, and the alarming increase of disease and death that results in commingling these "grave-yards" with the crowded dwellings of the populace.—*Kentish Champion*, March 17, 1844.

What a mass of unimaginative, unthinking beings forms the genus man. Fill the mouths of thieves and paupers with wheaten bread, the whiteness of which does not quite rival that on the Queen's table, but which is exceedingly wholesome and nutritious, and very much better than that which is eaten by the greater part of the self-sustaining labourers of all Europe, and both Houses of Parliament are in throes of humane agony at the wrongs of the poor. The difference of colour can be seen with mortal eyes; it is a subject of most obvious comparison. Fill, however, the lungs of thieves and paupers—fill their prisons and poor-houses—fill the Sunday-schools of the young, and the churches and chapels of the virtuous, and the workshops and pent-up dwellings of the industrious—fill the lordly mansions of the rich, and the very palace of royalty itself, with the deadly poisonous emanations of burial-grounds and charnel houses; let these pestiferous gases saturate the air where crowds of coronetted worshippers are assembled in our churches, or where multitudes of little children get their Sabbath-day's brief dole of learning; let half a city be corrupted with human putrescence, and so long as these matters do not seize violently and continuously by the nose the people of quality, no public commotion is raised, no Parliament is petitioned, no sound is heard about the neglected health of the community. The chief reason of this is, that to convince the judgment thought, and consideration are needful to prove that such evils exist and that they are unwholesome; facts must be collected, experiments performed, and conclusions carefully deduced; all which are matters of some trouble and difficulty. . . . Much curious information has been collected by Mr. Walker, respecting the funeral rites of people in different ages, and in different parts of the world. He cites the practice of the Jews, the laws of the ancient Greeks, Romans, and Carthagenians, all of whom strictly prohibited interment within their cities. Many extracts are given in Mr. Walker's book from Orders in Council, and letters of bishops and others, against the renewal of this pernicious practice in later times, which practice had gradually increased, "until the churches had become almost cemeteries." . . . In as far as Mr. Walker has executed a nauseous task for the public good, he deserves the highest honour; nor would it have been just, either to him or the public, to have suppressed his evidence, because it might appal the sensitive. . . . The remarks of Mr. Walker on the "management," as it is called, of burial-grounds, show that decent regard to the remains of the dead—respect for the coffins, with their emblematic garniture—all those outward and tangible signs of respect which have been bestowed at so much cost and expense (oftentimes ill afforded), are violated and set at nought, equally with the public health itself. . . . Interested and misguided persons may raise a cry about the sacredness of sepulture which the proposed plan would outrage. That sacredness is already violated, and in the most disgusting manner, which violation it is proposed to abolish, and instead of the indecencies committed under "management," to make the needful removal once and for ever, and that in a solemn manner, under the control of clergymen and proper officers. Surely, all the emotions of piety and affection, all the steady, lingering remembrances with which we regard the grave—the last home of our mother, our wife, our child—are now sadly offended, when the place to which we have consigned the remains of those who, in recollection, still continue part of our own being, is in a back yard of some miserable street, or among workshops, smithies, laundries, brewhouses, bakehouses, butchers' shambles (see p. 149), close upon taverns, down in some cellar, abutting upon our stores of various merchandise, or in the midst of the clatter of omnibuses, carts, and drays, and in the very densest throng of thousands of pedestrians. . . . Mr. Walker is one of the few useful men who have performed an investigation where little or no glory can be obtained, and where the rewards are few, other than those derived from the consciousness of doing good. Speculative reformers, the bold and abstract schemers for new-modelling society, may display a grandiloquence that will fill the public ear, and bring much glory to themselves. Those who, like our author, would destroy a tangible evil, or remove a local nuisance, will get little or no public approbation, but will raise up a host of determined and unflinching enemies, whose interests are assailed, and who will be much more resolute to defend and sustain the wrong done to the public, than the public is resolute to rid itself of the wrong. Every man takes care of himself, no matter at what price to the public.—*Westminster Review*, Jan. 1842.

Mr. Walker's work comes most acceptably to us, as providing us with strong arguments, and confirming us in our already expressed opinions, that burying our dead within the busy haunts of men, is *irrational, unhealthy, and offensive.* Some books are written for the purpose of imparting instruction to a class, or classes, or affording amusement to a comparative few. But this work is "universal"—husband and wife—parent and child—brother and sister—and all the relations in the great family of man must be deeply interested in it. The details in the "Gatherings" are of a most appalling nature. A deep debt is due to Mr. Walker for his labours. We intend frequently to quote from this work, and once again earnestly entreat our readers in this city to procure a copy.—*Chester Gazette.*

We cannot better serve the cause which we have so emphatically taken up, as a paramount branch of the great object of metropolitan improvements, than by laying before our readers another extract from Mr. G. A. Walker's striking exposition of the graves and church-yards of the metropolis. It is a perfect treasury of information on the subject. Mr. Mackinnon made it the basis of a large portion of his argument, in his eloquent speech on the subject last session; and we cannot revert too often for a supply to Mr. Walker for fresh materials of commentary, inasmuch as those materials are equally inexhaustible and astounding. The more we dip into his book, the more, in fact, we are surprised at the long suffering of the public, under the infliction of a nuisance so disgusting and prejudicial.—*Court Gazette,* Jan. 28, 1843.

This is an extraordinary book, and as useful as extraordinary. . . . We recommend this work to the serious attention of all classes.—*Sunday Times,* Dec. 1, 1839.

The object of the author is to impress upon the public at large, and upon the legislature in particular, the dangers which arise to the living from the practice of inhuming the dead in the midst of crowded cities. His facts (having reference principally to the metropolitan grave-yards) are of the most startling character, and the reasonings based upon them able and conclusive. Mr. Walker has done the state no slight service, in calling attention to a fruitful source of disease hitherto all but overlooked. Were it not that everything connected with public health is so entirely neglected by the constituted authorities, we should have strong hopes that this excellent work would tend to speedy reform, in a matter of infinitely more moment than many of the quack "reforms" of the day.—*Railway Times,* Nov. 30, 1839.

"Gatherings from Grave-Yards;" a work to which the public are directly and indirectly much indebted for the present state of opinion on the subject it discusses.—*Knight's London* (No. 86).

In England, at this day, there are modes of sepulture which would almost disgrace, as they would certainly disgust, a cannibal. . . . The details, for which we refer to Mr. Walker, ought to awaken the minds of the inhabitants of the metropolis especially to their shocking nature, and tend, we should hope, to a speedy and effectual remedy.—*Literary Gazette,* Nov. 30, 1839.

To parties taking an interest in the subject, on whatever account, the work will well repay an attentive perusal.—*Sheffield Mercury.*

Who would expect from such a title a detail of highly important facts, in which not only the humanity, civilization, and polity of the national character, but the health of the metropolis, is deeply interested? . . . . . On the whole, *this is the most important work, as respects the health, comfort, humanity, national character, and religion of the country, that has been publihsed for many a day.—Satirist.*

ALSO, PRICE ONE SHILLING,

LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMANS, PATERNOSTER ROW,
AND ALL BOOKSELLERS,

THE GRAVE-YARDS OF LONDON;

BEING

An Exposition of the Physical and Moral Consequences

INSEPARABLY CONNECTED

WITH OUR UNCHRISTIAN AND PESTILENTIAL CUSTOM OF DEPOSITING THE DEAD IN THE MIDST OF THE LIVING

WITH THE

EXAMINATIONS OF THE AUTHOR UPON THIS HIGHLY IMPORTANT SUBJECT,

BEFORE A

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "GATHERINGS FROM GRAVE-YARDS,"
"INTERMENT AND DISINTERMENT," "BURIAL-GROUND INCENDIARISM," "A PRACTICAL CHART OF DISEASES OF THE SKIN," "A NEW, PERMANENT, AND PAINLESS CURE FOR ULCERS,"
"THE WARM VAPOUR CURE," &c.

"The grave-diggers of London are a wonderful though little-known class of men, and see things dreadful and strange."—*The Westminster Review.*

OPINIONS OF THE LONDON AND PROVINCIAL PRESS.

In December, 1839, soon after Mr. Walker published his large work, "Gatherings from Grave-Yards," we recommended him to "come out in a slenderer shape, with more of modern London, and less of antiquity." This advice he has followed, and has now produced in a pamphlet fully as much evidence as is necessary to establish the importance of remedying the abuse which he has by great industry and vigour exposed. We shall be glad to find the extensive circulation of this cheaper work effecting the good which the author quite disinterestedly, we believe, is seeking. . . . Mr. Walker's pamphlet will do much to expedite the beneficial change; but it cannot be accomplished at once, nor by any sudden attack upon customs or privileges, however bad.—*Medical Gazette*, Sept. 10, 1841.

The tyrants of antiquity were accustomed to dispatch a criminal by binding the doomed wretch to a corpse; leaving the exhalations from the dead man to kill the living. While we shudder in contemplating this refinement in the philosophy of cruelty, we perhaps congratulate ourselves that in these days such things cannot be; but a little observation will convince us that the same ancient mode of extermination still flourishes, and to an infinitely greater extent than in former times, though in a modified form. Our modern law, associated with religion, permits the continuous application, to thousands and hundreds of thousands of our population, of the same revolting principle of death which formerly was concentrated upon a few miserable individuals; and this, with the concurrence of Parliament and the clergy, throughout all the towns and cities of the United Kingdom. Cathedrals, parish churches, church-yards, burial-yards, and all kinds of grounds, consecrated and unconsecrated, have been for centuries permitted to be used as receptacles of the dead, in the midst of our places of habitation, until at length earth and walls have become so saturated with putrefaction, that, turn where we may, the air we breathe is cadaverous, and a man often *feels* that sublimated particles, perhaps of his next door neighbour or nearest relative, enter his lungs at every respiration. Thus, in truth (though in a different sense from that of the Apostle), in the midst of life we are in death. Setting aside the question of what must be the influence on the mind from a consideration of such sickening facts, the effect of this general state of atmospheric infection upon the public health must be evident. It is physically indubitable, and those upon whose senses the truth has not yet forced itself, may soon trace its course by physical demonstration. Many of our most popular diseases are referrible to this source. . . . . Those who could comprehend the dreadful extent, and the actual and impending consequences of the system, have stated their view, local individuals who could understand, but would not act, have shaken their heads, and then dying, have been buried respectably, *more majorum*, perhaps under their own drawing-room windows. It is strange that the practical people of Great Britain should be amongst the last to retain this disgraceful and dangerous relic of Christian barbarism. Burial in towns has been long forbidden in France. It is upwards of twenty years since the clergy of Spain concurred with the Cortes in abolishing the practice. In many parts of Italy, in Switzerland, Denmark, Germany, and other nations of Europe, which we are apt to look upon as vastly behind ourselves in the march of intellect, burial in towns has been abolished by law. Why, then, does the system continue to prevail amongst us? Because, no doubt, the public mind has not been sufficiently aroused to a contemplation of its indecencies, horrors, and dangers; and there is no hope of suppressing this consecrated nuisance until a feeling of disgust, indignation, and resolution takes possession of all classes of society. This can only be produced by setting before their minds a picture, local and general, of their present dreadful position. . . . So much for the details of church-yards and grave-digging in London. It is not too much to infer from this, that the practice of all resemble those which we have already described. Mr. Walker, a medical practitioner in Drury-lane, affirms that the emanations are poisonous to those living in the neighbourhood of the metropolitan church-yards. . . . Mr. Walker, who has devoted a meritorious attention to this subject, repeats, in a variety of forms, his conviction that the burial of the dead in every one of these places is injurious to the living. . . . We have now taken a pretty fair survey of the burial-grounds of the metropolis. We have omitted the names of several; but it is enough to repeat that the condition of them all is horrible, atrocious to the dead and dangerous to the living. Colonel Acton, Mr. Ainsworth, and Colonel Fox, members of the Committee, visited Enon Chapel and some of the burial-grounds about Lincoln's-inn-fields, in company with Dr. Walker, after his first testimony, and from what they saw, but still more from what they felt was *concealed* from them, they assured their honourable colleagues that they might rely on his testimony as not at all exaggerated. The specific amount of injury done by this state of things to the health of the population cannot, of course, be precisely stated; but the general opinions of Dr. Walker, who seems to have more practically investigated this question than any of his contemporaries, are confirmed by the testimony of other eminent authorities.—*Westminster Review*, Aug. 1843.

To this little pamphlet—the contents of which, principally abridged from Mr. Walker's interesting work on the same subject, noticed in our last number, are thus furnished to the public with the view of a more extended diffusion of information, instruction, and conviction upon a matter most vitally important and but little understood—is appended the author's evidence given before the Committee of the House of Commons "on the Health of Towns," in the months of May and June, 1840. We have now the gratification of redeeming the promise we held out last month, and submit the following extracts—our space being unfortunately too confined to admit the whole. . . . Mr. Walker's evidence throughout is clear and manly, and sufficiently impressive, we should imagine, to convince the grossest grave-digger—the greediest churchwarden—of the outrageous evils resulting from those pestiferous *pandemonia*—"The Grave-Yards of London."—*British Friend of India Magazine.*

The community at large are deeply indebted to Surgeon Walker for his exertions in bringing under their notice the pestilential and fatal consequences of continuing interments in the grave-yards of London; or, in his language, of "depositing the DEAD in the midst of the LIVING." . . . Efficiently and successfully has Mr. Walker performed the stern and inexorable duty he undertook. The practice which he so justly condemns is, we are happy to believe, rapidly on the decline, as the number and extent of suburban cemetries abundantly prove; and to this, Mr. Walker's graphic and impressive exposition of the evils attending upon the burial of the dead within the city has largely contributed.—*Conservative Journal,* Oct. 23, 1841.

Mr. Walker has been unremitting in his exertions to effect his object; he has successfully endeavoured to bring the subject beneath the notice of the Common Council of the City of London, and the House of Commons; and the result has been the entire recognition of the justice of his elucidations.—*Chambers' London Journal,* Feb. 15, 1843.

On behalf of Mr. Walker's former appeal to the public on this vitally important subject, the *Literary Gazette* joined issue; and to the utmost of its power seconded and enforced his unanswerable arguments, founded on statements of the abominations arising out of the existing practice. The present is a sequel worthy of its precursor, and containing besides Mr. Walker's evidence before a select committee of the House of Commons, pointing out the horrible and disgusting consequences of burial in crowded church-yards, and vaults under churches in the very midst of our densest population.—*Literary Gazette,* Aug. 20, 1841.

This is an abridgment of a larger work published two years ago by Mr. Walker, and which we at the time noticed as one of the most stirring and useful publications that ever proceeded from the press. Mr. Walker's object is to expose the "physical and moral consequences arising from the pestilential custom of burying the DEAD in the midst of the LIVING." The facts brought forward by him in elucidation of the subject are absolutely appalling, and imperatively demand legislative examination.—*Polytechnic Journal,* Sept. 1841.

Sir Peter Laurie said it was quite evident, that with respect to the sepulture of the dead, no place in the world could be in a worse condition than the city of London. He supposed that every one had read Mr. Walker's pamphlet on the subject, and he felt much gratification at the appearance of so many beautiful cemeteries round the metropolis, and at the great public feeling on the subject of close interments which was daily manifesting itself.—*Report of Meeting of the Common Council in the "Times" of* Oct. 1841.

A work of singular cleverness, and one for which, owing to the salutary tendency of the revelations made in it, society can never be too grateful.—*Illustrated London News.*

ALSO, BY THE SAME AUTHOR,

PRICE SIXPENCE,

LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMANS, PATERNOSTER ROW,

AND ALL BOOKSELLERS,

INTERMENT AND DISINTERMENT;

OR,

A Further Exposition of the Practices pursued

IN THE

METROPOLITAN PLACES OF SEPULTURE

AND THE

RESULTS AS AFFECTING THE HEALTH OF THE LIVING,

[REPUBLISHED FROM THE "MORNING HERALD."]

*** This work, consisting of nine closely printed Letters, will be sent FREE, by Post, for Eightpence, on application to Mr. Walker, at 11, St. James's-Place, St. James's-street.

"Such is the harmony always existing between religion and sound policy, that what is acknowledged as decorous and useful by the one, is also commanded and prescribed by the other."—*Ordinance of the Archbishop of Toulouse concerning Interments in Churches.*

OPINIONS OF THE LONDON AND PROVINCIAL PRESS.

The subject of interment in towns, with the injurious effect on the health and morals of the people, has now been before the country a considerable period; and we are convinced public feeling is most decidedly in favour of its speedy abolition. Intimately and honourably associated with this subject is the name of Mr. G. A. Walker, whose engagements have not been allowed to prevent him from pursuing, with unabated zeal, the cause of public health and morality. It is mainly to his pecuniary sacrifices, personal exertions, and literary labours, that we are indebted for the present tone of public opinion with respect to the burial of the dead in our crowded cities. It was chiefly through his persevering exertions that the attention of the House of Commons was directed to the effect produced by the interment of bodies in towns, and a select committee appointed to institute an inquiry, the mass of evidence presented before which committee is probably already familiar to those who take any interest in the sanitary condition of the population. The gross indecencies and abominations inseparable from town interments, disclosed in every page of this invaluable Report,* are too loathsome for comment; whilst the injurious effect upon the health of the inhabitants, who breathe an atmosphere tainted with the noxious gases emitted from putrid bodies, is pointed out by the highest medical authorities.—*Nottingham Mercury*, April 28, 1843.

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* This Report, price 2s. 10d., may be had of Messrs. Hansard, and will abundantly repay a careful perusal.

To review the vast heap of evidence adduced by Mr. Walker, would be a task which our limits will not allow us to attempt; as the result of his labours, we may state that every assertion made by Mr. Walker, when he first became the avowed opponent of intra-mural interment, however startling they may have been deemed, have been by his subsequent researches most completely established, and leave no room for doubt on the minds of any, that the interment of the dead in our crowded cities is a cause of much of the disease and misery existing within; whilst the revolting practices pursued, too often under the direction of parochial authorities, are such as to call for the loudest censure, and still more fully bear out the truth of Mr. Walker's position. For the present we take leave of him and his labours; the great importance of the subject will probably induce us shortly to return to it. Heartily do we congratulate Mr. Walker, and trust soon to see his excellent efforts rewarded by complete success.—*Provincial Medical Journal*, June 3, 1843.

The public are much indebted to Mr. G. A. Walker for his exertions in bringing before the public this most important question, which deeply concerns the PUBLIC HEALTH, and PUBLIC MORALS. . . . . He deserves still more credit for his persevering efforts to direct the public attention to it, by publication and by petition, in the teeth of much enmity and resistance, provoked by jobbing motives, or interested localities.—*Court Gazette*, Feb. 25, 1843.

It is impossible to come to any other conclusion, after reading the Letters, than this one,—that the burial of the dead in crowded cities is attended with direful effects to the living—effects which can be compensated for in no way, and which it is, therefore, the duty of the legislature to guard against entirely and without delay.—*Leicester Chronicle*, Feb. 25, 1843.

We are glad to perceive that several members of the Parliamentary Committee visited various burial-grounds in company with Mr. Walker, and assured their colleagues that that gentleman's testimony was not at all exaggerated; and it is pleasing to find that other eminent authorities confirm the same remark.—*Leicester Chronicle*, Oct. 7, 1843.

We have sat spell-bound before this pamphlet. It is certainly the most extraordinary book we have ever read; and its demands to be before the eyes of all men are of the most imperative character. . . . . The author has brought such a mass of facts forward relative to the injurious consequences that must result from inhuming the dead in such close proximity to the dwellings of the living, that the philanthropist cannot close his eyes to them. We defy the most sceptical and prejudiced to rise from the perusal of this pamphlet unconvinced. We have never seen Mr. Walker's larger work; but enough is in our possession to convince us that this momentous subject has fallen into hands eminently qualified to do it justice. We earnestly recommend Mr. Walker's book to the perusal —*the serious perusal*, of ALL.—*Manx Liberal*, Feb. 11, 1843.

The information contained in these letters is very important, as bringing into prominent notice a system of sepulture which prevails throughout the country, but especially in the city of London, and which, in the nature of things, must be deeply injurious to the health of the community. We trust that the zeal and ability displayed by Mr. Walker will receive that co-operation, from influential parties and from the government itself, which will lead to the adoption of a system more in accordance with the enlightened spirit of the age.—*Great Northern Advertiser*, Feb. 23, 1843.

This is a reprint of a series of Letters addressed to the Editor of the *Morning Herald*, by the author of "Gatherings from Grave-Yards," "The Grave-Yards of London," and other similar works; and is an exposition, continuous from those works, of the practices pursued in the METROPOLITAN places of sepulture, and of the result of those practices with reference to the health of the living. The motives which have all along directed Mr. Walker's pen, have evidently been those of a sincere and active philanthropist; and he has succeeded in making out a case against the metropolitan parochial authorities, and the higher powers of the country, the clearness of which must render it imperative upon both forthwith to adopt all possible measures for the alleviation of the horrors which he so forcibly and graphically delineates.—*British Press and Jersey and Guernsey Independent*, March 3, 1843.

Mr. Walker, of Drury-lane, continues his expositions of the baneful and pestilential effects of the system of interment in the horribly over-crowded burying-grounds of large towns. PUBLIC HEALTH, PUBLIC DECENCY, and MORALITY, seem equally offended by the frightful and disgusting condition of many of these places; and Mr. Walker is eminently entitled to thanks for his able and persevering efforts to awaken, practically and effectually, the attention of the whole community to the enormities of this foul abuse.—*Morning Post*, May 16, 1843.

The author of this pamphlet has deserved well of his fellow-citizens, and is entitled to thanks, praise, and more substantial rewards, for the valuable services he has rendered to humanity. Although the object at which he aims has not been yet achieved, owing to the sloth and stupidity of the public authorities, whom he is endeavouring to enlighten, there can be no doubt that it will soon be effected. . . . Mr. Walker's propositions are self-evident, and must commend themselves to any intelligent and unprejudiced mind. . . . . In those horrid places (grave-yards, church and chapel vaults) are engendered the seeds of those plagues which thin and desolate the land, and extend their ravages even to another soil. There the destroying angel seems to have taken up his abode and to have fixed his shrine. If our readers doubt this, let them peruse Mr. Walker's pamphlet, and there they will see the awful proofs in an accumulation of numberless facts which cannot be gainsayed. . . . . Mr. Walker is entitled to the greatest credit for the labour, zeal, and ability he has brought to bear on this subject. He was, we believe, the first to awaken and direct public attention to the evils resulting from the practice against which he has so well written.—*Illustrated London News*, Feb. 1843.

The loathsome facts stated by Mr. Walker; the proved destructive consequences, in the production of disease and death, arising from this fearful cause; and the imminence of the grave-yard dangers, which the writer clearly points out; should induce every man to aid in the provision of measures for checking so alarming and disgusting an evil—measures called for alike from respect to the dead, and from regard to the health of the living.—*West Kent Guardian*, Feb. 11, 1843.

These letters prove to the satisfaction of every one the dangers arising from the burial of our dead in the midst of a thickly-populated town; not alone the danger that may arise, but the mischiefs that have actually arisen from such practices. We have before now called attention to the subject; and we are rejoiced to find that this gentleman continues to exercise his powerful pen in drawing attention to the mischief.—*Clare Journal*, Feb. 23, 1843.

We have read with infinite pleasure the little production before us, which is a series of Letters addressed to the Editor of, and published in, the *Morning Herald*, respecting the practices in the metropolitan places of sepulture. That this is a subject of the most vital importance to the community at large, no one can doubt. . . . Glad, indeed, are we to perceive that one so competent as Mr. Walker has shown himself, since not only has that gentleman produced strict evidence of the appalling practice of interring the dead in the midst of crowded cities, but he has given in detail statements at which every Christian must blush,—has come forward to endeavour to put a stop to a practice that is both monstrous and revolting to humanity. We give this work our unhesitating approval; every reader of the *City Chronicle* should not fail to possess himself of a copy.—*City Chronicle*, Feb. 14, 1843.

Mr. Walker here renews the powerful attack that he made in his "Gatherings from Grave-Yards," &c., on the death-causing custom of interring the dead in the midst of the dwellings of the living; thus planting our dense cities with pestiferous spots, whence issue the seeds of disease and pestilence, spreading those plagues that thin and desolate the people, nor stop their ravages near the centre of their origin, but send the arrow of death into hearts many a league away. . . . . Mr. Walker has handled his unattractive subject with great ability; and his laborious zeal and courage must win him the greatest honour. He was the earliest in the field in combating the abuses that he so ably exposes; and like the good old English mastiff, when he has got his teeth in the neck of the enemy, he does not seem disposed to quit his hold till he has completely vanquished him. . . . . Mr. Walker's proofs, scientific observations, inferences and arguments, must be sought in his little work.—*Kilmarnock Journal*, March 2, 1843.

This is a very important addition to the author's work on grave-yards. . . . Mr. Walker's pamphlet contains many new facts strikingly illustrative of the evils flowing from the barbarous practice of intra-mural sepulture—evils which, thanks to the author and his patriotic coadjutors, are now felt to be so intolerable as to command abatement. In reference to this question, ignorance and self-interestedness may continue to be blind and deaf; but we shall be content to abide by the verdict of all honest and unprejudiced men who shall read Mr. Walker's pamphlet. To such we commend it.—*British and Foreign Medical Review*, April, 1843.

If ever there was a man who deserved the good wishes of his fellows—if ever there was an undaunted spirit fighting alone against prejudice and error, with a perseverance and patience inexhaustible—it is Mr. Walker, the author of this *brochure*. Mr. W. is well known as the author of a very clever and extraordinary book, called "Gatherings from Grave-Yards;" and another equally remarkable for its contents, entitled, "The Grave-Yards of London," in both of which he has laboured to show that interment in towns and confined places is injurious in every way to the health of the inhabitants. Not content with bringing forward so many very remarkable statements—which cannot but excite a feeling of horror and disgust that such things should exist—Mr. Walker goes "once more to the breach," —petitions Parliament and obtains a Committee to inquire into the matter, the evidence before which fully substantiates all that has been previously asserted, and a great deal more. Mr. Walker has been indefatigable in gathering evidence to maintain his views, and in the present pamphlet has carried them out, and brought forward still more convincing statements, if such were necessary, to show the evil tendency of burying in cities and towns. . . . No reason to doubt is left to exist of the soundness of Mr. Walker's assertions.—*Liverpool Standard*, Feb. 21, 1843

To this zealous and enthusiastic gentleman is largely owing the improved public opinion which now exists on the subject of the burial of the dead in populous towns. We have ourselves frequently brought that subject before the public; and we shall, in future numbers, avail ourselves of Mr. Walker's pamphlet, to reiterate the arguments which we have so often advanced against the present barbarous and injurious practice.—*Gateshead Observer*, Feb. 11, 1843.

Oh! that there were but one assailable point in the mailed coat with which the public sense enshrouds itself, it would not be necessary to urge these things upon its attention. Such letters as those of Mr. Walker would not have had to have been written—such disclosures as the evidence given before the Parliamentary Committee, would not have been to be extracted. But it is done; and glad should we be to transfer to our pages very largely from Mr. Walker's writings on the subject. Any thing we can say is feeble compared with the facts he adduces, and the superior knowledge he brings to bear upon the subject—the whole London and most of the provincial press have borne evidence to the opinion of his merit and ability; and we can only point to the work itself, and beg that an eye be thrown over its pages; this will be sufficient, for the crowded matter-of-fact is so placed, and so prominent in startling figures and appalling incidents, as to defy the turning away without an attentive reading; and if read, a conclusion being come to, to raise the voice loudly and instantly against the system it denounces.—*The Builder*, April, 1843.